
9
Kio Shimoku
GENSHIKEN
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GENSHIKEN



KIO SHIMOKU

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
Michaelis/Carpelis Design



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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

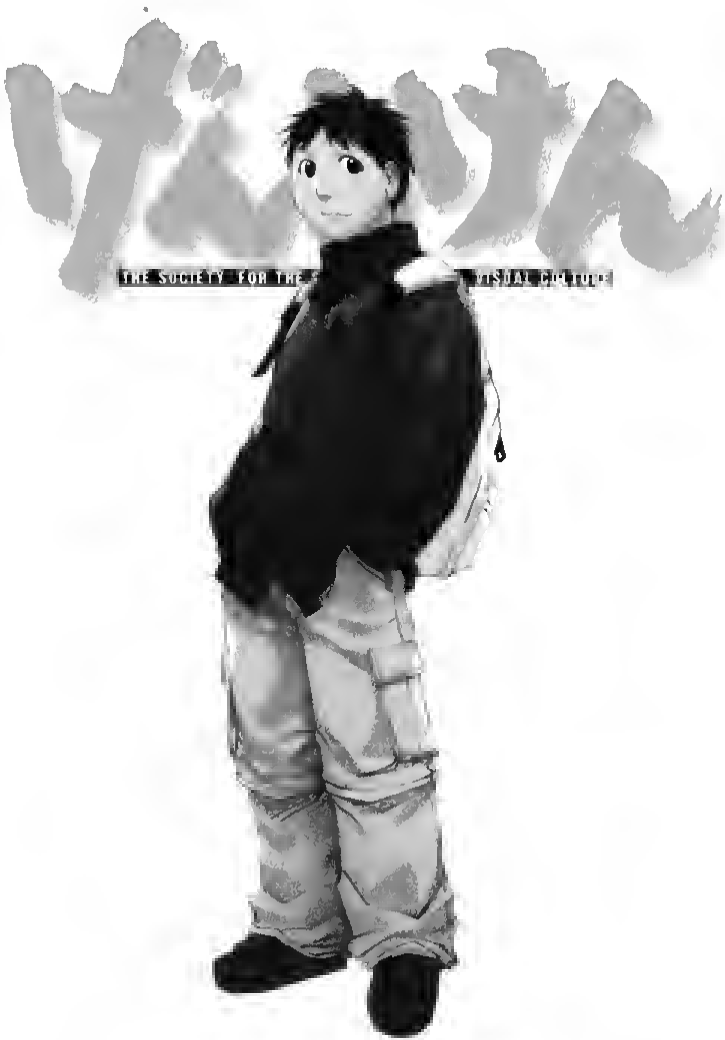
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



KIO SHIMOKU

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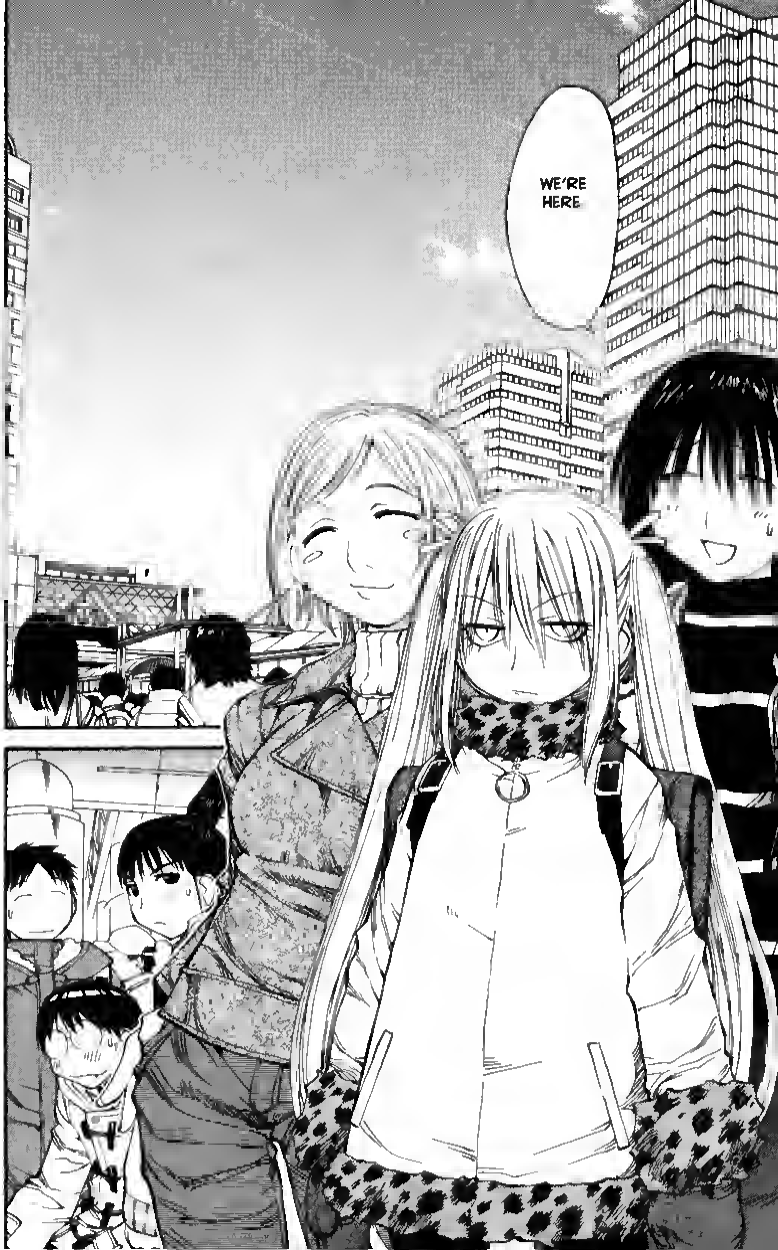
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CHAPTER 50 -
ALONE WITH SUSIE


WE'RE HERE


HELLO
HI.
YOU CAME STRAIGHT HERE FROM THE AIRPORT? YOU MUST BE TIRED.
THEIR PLANE WAS A LITTLE LATE.
NEW RELEASES!
THERE AREN'T ANY.
I DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE COMIC-FEST.
NEW RELEASES!
NEW RELEASES!
WAH!
NEW RELEASES?
BOO
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HAPPY ABOUT IT. IT SUCKED GETTING TURNED DOWN.
BUT...
I DID MAKE A FEW BOOKS FOR SOME SMALLER EVENTS.
I'LL GIVE 'EM TO YOU LATER.
AND TODAY I PICKED UP SOME BOOKS I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE
GUU JOBU! [GOOD JOB!]
WHY IS SHE TRYING TO DO A JAPANESE ACCENT?

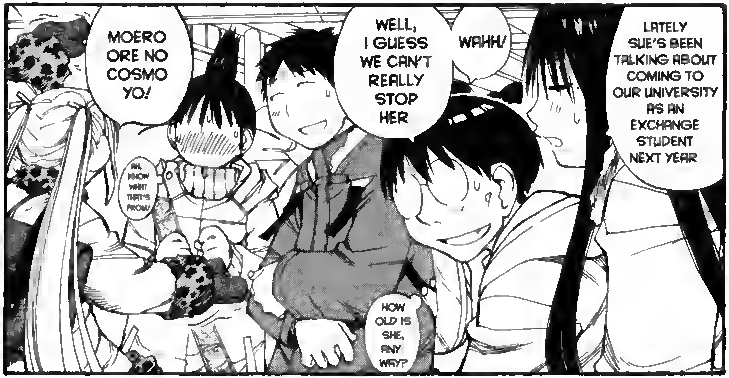

YOU MEAN THE BOOKS FROM THE LAST CONVENTION?
THE "ONLY EVENT"...
YEAH..
THOSE






WHISPER WHISPER


HUH?
AH, THAT'S FROM...
BLINK
?
UNDER-NEATH YOUR LUNGS?
YEAH, SPASMS IN THE DIAPHRAGM! RIGHT UNDERNEATH YOUR LUNGS.
AREN'T HICCUPS CAUSED BY SPASMS SOME-WHERE IN YOUR BODY?
RIGHT HERE!
WAAHHH.
ドス
THWACK
!?
SA-SASHARA-SAN?
OOF. THAT'S FROM THE MANGA VERSION...
THAT'S THE DIAPHRAGM!
YOU KNEW THAT WAS COMING BUT YOU LET HER DO IT ANYWAY, DIDN'T YOU, SASHARA.
SHE CAN READ JAPANESE NOW
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT WHENEVER SHE READS OUT LOUD SHE USES ANIME VOICES.


LATELY SUE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT COMING TO OUR UNIVERSITY AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT NEXT YEAR
WAHH!
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN'T REALLY STOP HER
MOERO ORE NO COSMO YO!
HOW OLD IS SHE, ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S FROM!


NEXT YEAR.
AND THAT'S THE HYAKURETSU PUNCH FROM FIST OF THE NORTH STAR.
HYAAAA!




SO, IS IT OKAY IF WE STOP BY YOUR PLACE ON THE WAY HOME, OGIWE..
...AND PICK UP THE BOOKS?
YEAH, SURE.
WE WON'T STAY LONG.
THAT'S OKAY, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE BIG PLANS FOR TODAY OR ANYTHING
AH, OKAY, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
...WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN.
AREN'T WE ALL GOING TO NARITA TEMPLE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE TOMORROW?
GRAB
SO I JUST WANNA GET TO BED EARLY TONIGHT.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD
NO WAY I'M GETTIN' TO BED EARLY THOUGH.
WE'RE GONNA STAY UP ALL NIGHT SO WE CAN SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR.

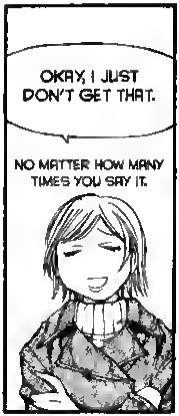



BADOING
BADOING
ALL RIGHT, SUE. NOW SAY THANK YOU.
CLICK


HERE.
THESE ARE MY LATEST BOOKS
HIMSELF
VOL 3


DAMN IT, SUE!
I SAID WE HAD TO GO STRAIGHT HOME.
FALLUMP

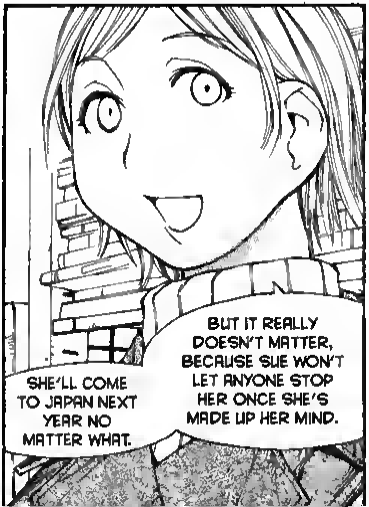

SEE, SUE. THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I'M AGAINST YOU COMING HERE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT.
NO YOU CAN'T, GIVE HER AN INCH AND...
IT'S OKAY AT LEAST I CAN MAKE YOU GUYS SOME TEA.


OKAY, I JUST DON'T GET THAT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU SAY IT.


I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE HER SUFFER.
ANGELA...
LIKE I'VE SAID BEFORE, BEING AN OTAKU IN JAPAN ISN'T EASY.


YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH, KANAKO.
SUE'S ALL GROWN UP NOW.


...THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M WORRIED.


SHE'LL COME TO JAPAN NEXT YEAR NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE SUE WON'T LET ANYONE STOP HER ONCE SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND.




WELL THEN, SUE..
GUESS IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PROVE YOURSELF..
ANGELA?
..AND CONVINCE KANAKO ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT.

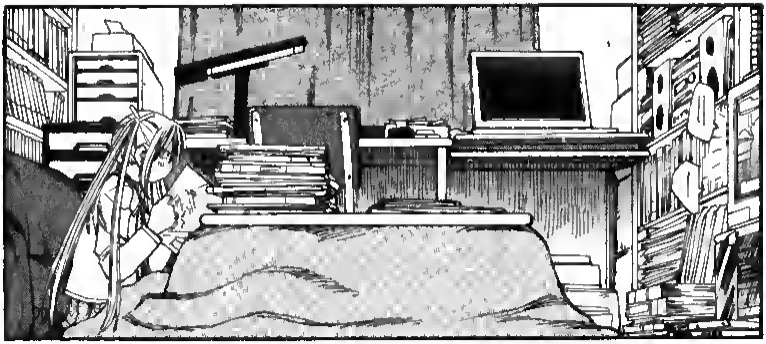

UH..
U-UM...
WHAT'S SHE SAYING, OHNO-SENPAI?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD.


CAN..
...YOU HELP ME OUT WITH SOMETHING?


CHIKA!
EH.. AH.. YES..?

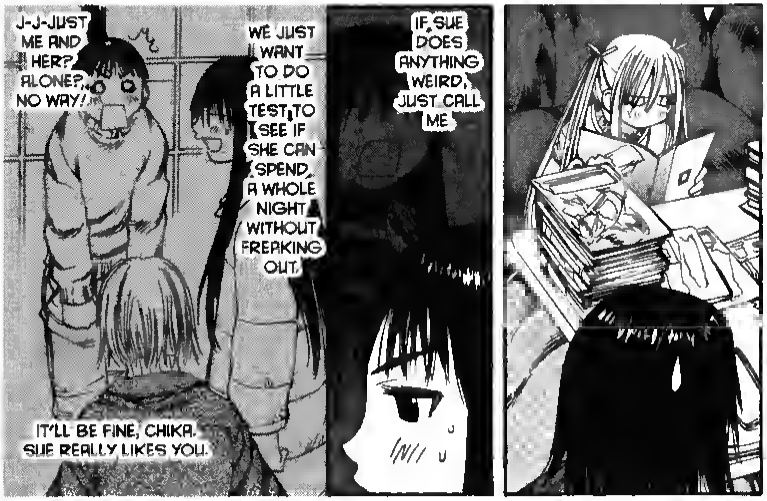

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON OVER AT OGIUE-SAN'S...
.....






TSSSS
...I'M TOO LAZY TO DRAW A BATH.
TRY IS A SHOWER IN THE WINTER NIGHT SUCKS BUT...


BRRR ...
IT'S FREEZ-ING.
SLIDE


J-J-JUST ME AND HER? ALONE? NO WAY!
WE JUST WANT TO DO A LITTLE TEST TO SEE IF SHE CAN SPEND A WHOLE NIGHT WITHOUT FREAKING OUT.
IF SUE DOES ANYTHING WEIRD, JUST CALL ME.
IT'LL BE FINE, CHIKA. SUE REALLY LIKES YOU.


WELL...
...IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REALLY GETTING INTO THAT BIG PILE OF BOOKS I PUT OUT, BUT...


I HAD TO BORROW...
...SASAHARA-SAN'S STRATEGY AND...
...HIDE ALL THE REALLY HARD-CORE STUFF AND ALL THE 18-AND-OVER BOYS' LOVE VIDEO GAMES ..
WAY IN THE BACK


WELL, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED TO CALL OHNO-SENPAI ABOUT THAT.
BUT SHE GAVE UP AFTER SHE SAW THAT IT WASN'T HOOKED UP ....
LOOKS LIKE SHE TRIED TO PLAY A GAME...
HUH?


AH...
A SHOWER?
OH.
YOU WANNA TAKE ONE, TOO?
SHOWER
SWIP
YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT, RIGHT?
FEEL FREE TO USE MY SHAMPOO.
THESE ARE MY SWEATS. YOU CAN USE 'EM AS PAJAMAS.
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BUT.
THIS ONE'S HOT.
AND THIS ONE'S COLD
WELL, ENJOY YOUR SHOWER.
I ALREADY TOOK ONE, SO IT SHOULD BE NICE AND WARM IN THERE.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST CALL ME.
...OH YEAH, BUT YOU CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE.
AH, IT SEEMS LIKE I'M TALKING AN AWFUL LOT, HUH? SORRY. IT MUST BE REALLY ANNOYING.
UH, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING WELL, ANYWAY, ENJOY YOUR SHOWER.
SLAM
...YOU GOT AN E-MAIL A SECOND AGO.
AH, OKAY, THANKS.
IT'S PROBABLY SASAHARA-SAN.


OKAY, MAYBE THAT WAS JUST A LINE SHE HEARD IN SOME ANIME... IS THERE A LINE LIKE THAT?
DID I JUST HEAR HER WRONG? NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
SHOULD I ASK HER? BUT I MISSED MY CHANCE.
WAS... THAT JAPANESE?
WHA—?
.....
AHHH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
GUESS I'LL JUST PRETEND DIDN'T HEAR IT.
AH, IT IS FROM SASAHARA-SAN.
"HOW'S IT GOING OVER THERE?"
WELL... WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM... 'THINGS HAVE TAKEN AN UNEXPECTED TURN...'
CLICK CLICK CLICK





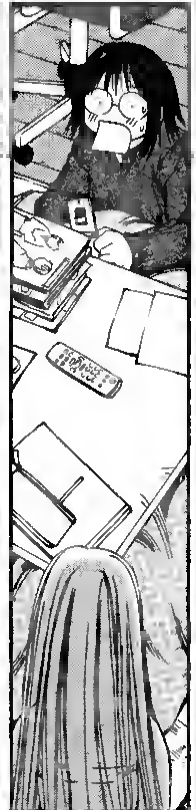


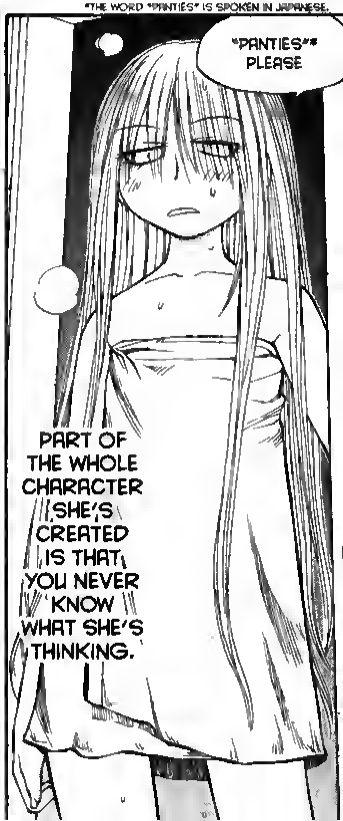
*THE WORD "PANTIES" IS SPOKEN IN JAPANESE.












BWRRRHHHH


BWAHHH
YOUR HAIR IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
?


"YO-AH HAIRU IZU...
...BEE-U-TI-FURU"?


THANKS

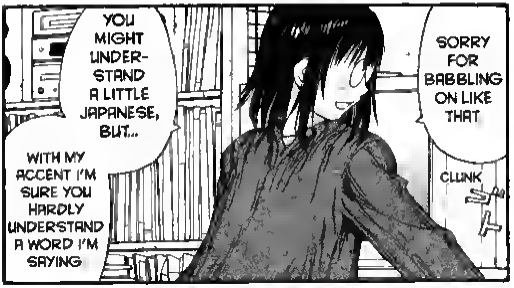

SPACING OUT
YEP... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S THINKING.


BWAHHHH
HMMM...
.....
I MEAN, BEING AN OTAKU IS...
.....
...BUT, I CAN'T REALLY BLAME OHNO-SENPAI FOR BEING AGAINST IT...
VRRRNNN VRRRNNN
NOT LONG AGO I DID NOTHING BUT TALK SHIT ABOUT OTAKU.
FWAHHHH FWAHHH
WAHH/ GOD, I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF THE WORD.


IT'S ALL SASAHARA-SAN'S FAULT.
BUT NOW I'M ABOUT AS OTAKU AS YOU CAN GET...
SHIT...
I BET YOU'VE NEVER FELT ASHAMED OF BEING AN OTAKU.
YOU COULD PROBABLY NEVER UNDER-STAND THAT KIND OF INFERIORITY COMPLEX, SUE.
SO WHY NOT KEEP THAT ATTITUDE AND COME LIVE IN JAPAN.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A BAD IDEA.
I THINK YOU SHOULD JUST BE YOURSELF AND DO WHAT YOU WANT, SUE.
THAT'LL BE MORE FUN FOR EVERY-ONE.


IT'LL PROBABLY BE FUN FOR ME, TOO.



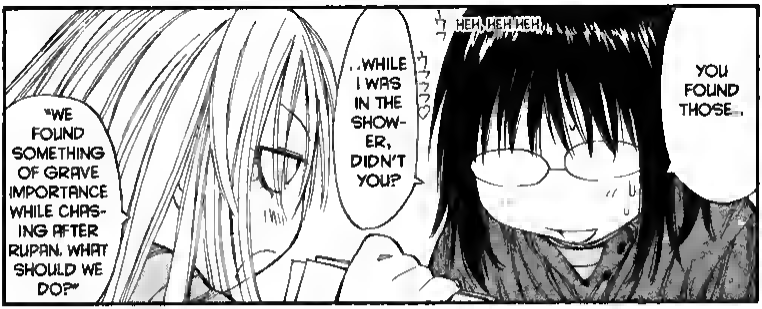

YOU MIGHT UNDER-STAND A LITTLE JAPANESE, BUT...
WITH MY ACCENT I'M SURE YOU HARDLY UNDERSTAND A WORD I'M SAYING
SORRY FOR BABBLING ON LIKE THAT
CLUNK
OKAY, ALL DONE.
CLICK




"I'M GIVING IT ALL I'VE GOT!"
AH...
HUH?
WHAT?


"YOUR HEART."
..UH, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE USING THAT RIGHT?
I THINK IT HAD KIND OF A DIFFERENT MEANING
"THE BASTARD HAS STOLEN SOMETHING OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE."
RUSTLE RUSTLE


W-WELL...
YOU DIDN'T REALLY STEAL THOSE, RIGHT?
YOU JUST FOUND THEM IN THE BACK OF THE BOOKSHELF, WHERE I HID THEM.
SO YOU'RE USING THAT QUOTE WRONG.
"NO, HE DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING."


HEH HEH HEH...
YOU FOUND THOSE...
..WHILE I WAS IN THE SHOWER, DIDN'T YOU?
"WE FOUND SOMETHING OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE WHILE CHASING AFTER RUPAN. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?"


WHAT THE HELL?
YOU TOTALLY UNDERSTAND JAPANESE, DON'T YOU!!
"I'M NOT A VERY GOOD BURGLAR YET, BUT I'LL LEARN."
SKRINCH
SKRINCH

PLEASE DON'T COME LIVE IN JAPAN.

"OH NO, HERE COMES ZENIGATA AGAIN".



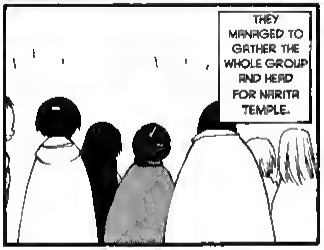


GRAB YOUR PANTS!

NOTHING'S CHANGED...

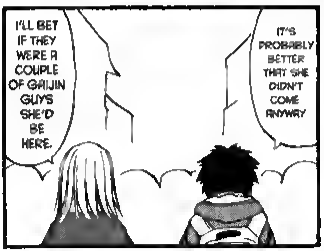


THEY WERE ONLY 11!



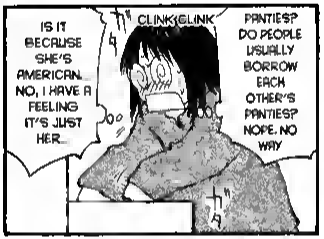


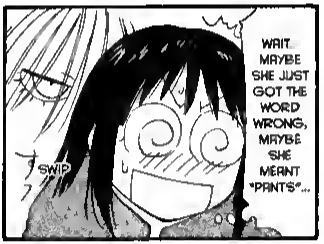




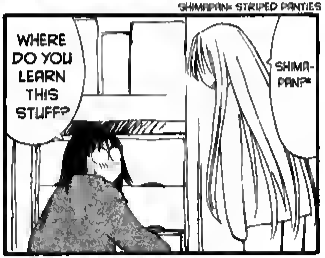
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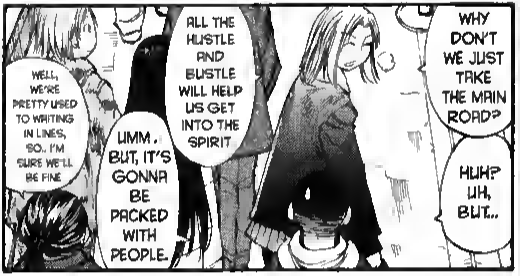


SHIMAPAN= STRIPED PANTIES




NEW YEAR'S EVE
CHIBA PREFECTURE— JR NARITA STATION
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO NARITA TEMPLE BEFORE.


WHICH WAY DO WE GO, KUCCHI? IS IT FAR?
IT LOOKS LIKE A REAL TEMPLE TOWN.
HEH, HEH... JUST LEAVE IT TO ME
IT'S A 20-MINUTE WALK
NARITA IS MY TERRITORY
MY HIGH SCHOOL WAS RIGHT NEAR THE TEMPLE, SO I WAS THERE PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY.
WE KNOW, WE KNOW...


WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE THE MAIN ROAD?
HUH? UH, BUT...
ALL THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE WILL HELP US GET INTO THE SPIRIT
UMM. BUT, IT'S GONNA BE PACKED WITH PEOPLE.
WELL, WE'RE PRETTY USED TO WALKING IN LINES, SO... I'M SURE WE'LL BE FINE

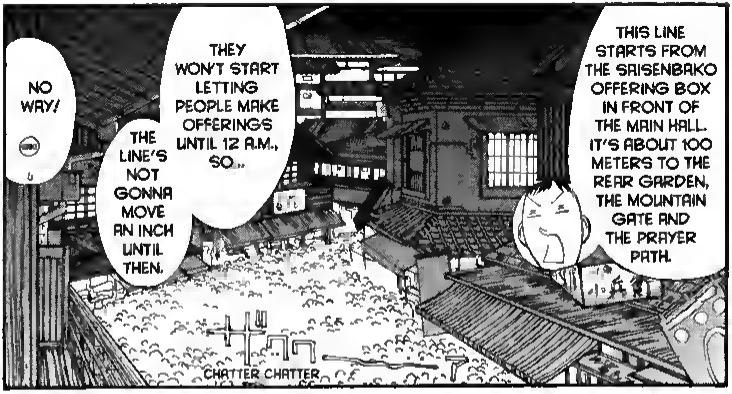

I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN THE SECRET BACK ROADS...
WE WON'T SEE A SOUL.


WELL...
OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO...

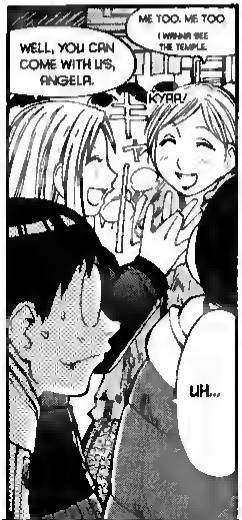


CHAPTER 51 -

NEVERENDING EARTHLY DESIRES


THIS LINE STARTS FROM THE SAISENBAKO OFFERING BOX IN FRONT OF THE MAIN HALL. IT'S ABOUT 100 METERS TO THE REAR GARDEN, THE MOUNTAIN GATE AND THE PRAYER PATH.
THEY WON'T START LETTING PEOPLE MAKE OFFERINGS UNTIL 12 A.M., SO...
THE LINE'S NOT GONNA MOVE AN INCH UNTIL THEN.
NO WAY!
CHATTER CHATTER


SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE THIS.
WILL YOU SHOW US THE SHORT CUT, KUCCHI?
OF COURSE!
HUH?


ME TOO. ME TOO
I WANNA SEE THE TEMPLE.
WELL, YOU CAN COME WITH US, ANGELA.
KYAA!
UH...


YOU KNOW, AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, I'D RATHER JUST GO STRAIGHT TO NARITA TEMPLE AS FAST AS WE CAN.
I'LL JUST MAKE MY OFFERING AFTER THE CROWD HAS THINNED OUT A LITTLE.


WAIT, SO... ALL OF US ARE GOING?
HUH? WELL, ANYONE WHO WANTS TO STAY HERE IS WELCOME TO.




WE CAN ALWAYS MEET BACK UP LATER ON.
DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY TO BREAK UP INTO TWO GROUPS LIKE THIS, AND JUST LEAVE SUE WITH OGILE-SAN...?


YEAH, SO MUCH FOR SPENDING NEW YEAR'S ALL TOGETHER, HUH.
GEEZ, SHE JUST DOESN'T DO WELL WITH GROUPS, DOES SHE.


ゴ〜〜〜〜〜ン・・・
GONG
ザワ ザワ ザワ
CHATTER CHATTER
ゴ〜ン！
GONG
HMMM.
AH, THERE'S THE LINE.
SO IN FRONT OF THAT LINE IS THE OFFERING BOX?
THAT'S RIGHT.


NOW I'M STARTING TO FEEL THAT NEW YEAR'S SPIRIT
COME ON, LET'S WALK AROUND THE TEMPLE GROUNDS
OKAY, BUT IT'S HUGE.
OKAY, KUCCHI. FIND US A LITTLE SAKE BOOTH.
HUH? WHAT?
12:00 A.M.
WOOO
PLEASE DON'T THROW COINS
WHOA! GOOD IDEA! YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT'S UP, ANGELA.
WELL, IT'S GETTING KIND OF CHILLY
HEY...
WHY DON'T WE START OFF WITH A CUP OF HOT SAKE?


PHEW.
WELL WE MADE IT THROUGH THE WORST OF IT.
HAPPY NEW YEAR
YEAH, NOW WE JUST HAVE TO KILL TIME UNTIL SUNRISE.


I WONDER WHERE THOSE GUYS WENT.
CALL ONE OF THEIR CELL PHONES, SASAHARA.
OKAY.
AH, KOUSAKA-KUN? HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE OFFERING AREA.
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?
HUH?
YOU'RE ALREADY DRINKING?
WE WERE JUST GONNA HAVE A LITTLE DRINK BUT EVERYONE KIND OF GOT INTO IT AND ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER
A HA HA HA HA THAT SNOT RUNNING DOWN YOUR NOSE IS PROBABLY PURE SAKE
A HA HA IT'S GOTTA BE.
AND ALL THAT SWEAT'S PROBABLY SAKE, TOO
WHAT ABOUT HIS TEARS?
AND KUCHIKI-KUN KIND OF GOT DONE IN BY THE GIRLS.
ACTUALLY WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
THERE'S A TON OF BARS ALL LINED UP SO I GUESS WE MUST BE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE GROUNDS AND...
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS START WALKING AROUND THE GROUNDS AND...
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN KUCHIKI-KUN GETS HIS SECOND WIND.


WHY DO THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO SELFISH.


WHAT?
SO, THAT'S WHAT KOU-SAKA SAID...
GOD, THAT'S FREAK-ING RIDICU-LOUS.


BEATS GOING OUT AND GETTING DRUNK
AH, YEAH, I'M ALL FOR THAT
...STAY HERE AND ENJOY THE TEMPLE TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT./
WELL IF THAT'S HOW IT IS THEN, I SAY WE .
"SIEG ZEON!"



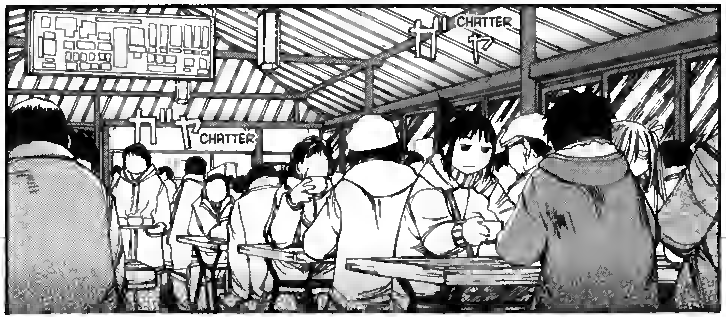

IS THERE A MAP AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE?
WELL, SHALL WE?

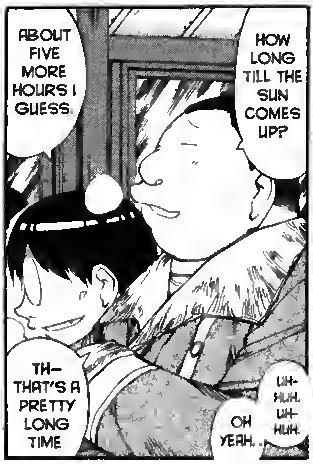

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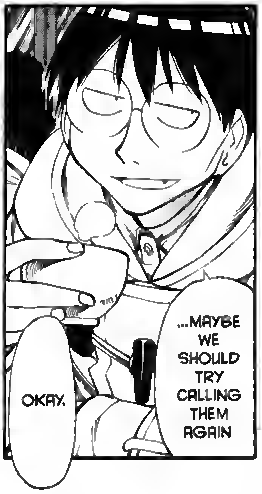

MAN, THIS WHOLE PLACE IS LIKE A GIANT LABYRINTH OR SOMETHING
I KNOW THERE'S EVEN A HUGE PARK
IT'S REALLY HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE WITH ALL THESE PEAKS AND VALLEYS.
AND THERE ARE TONS OF FOOD STALLS.

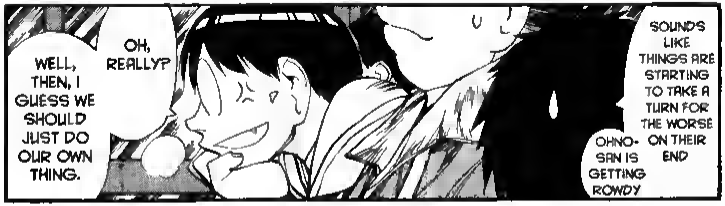

WE NEVER DID FIND KASUKABE-SENPAI AND EVERYONE


CHATTER
CHATTER


ABOUT FIVE MORE HOURS I GUESS.
HOW LONG TILL THE SUN COMES UP?
TH-THAT'S A PRETTY LONG TIME
OH YEAH...
UH-HUH. UH-HUH.


IT'S FREEZ ING OUT HERE.
KNOW THE SUNRISE COMES RIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF?


...MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY CALLING THEM AGAIN
OKAY.


SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE STARTING TO TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE ON THEIR END
OHNO-SAN IS GETTING ROWDY
OH, REALLY?
WELL, THEN, I GUESS WE SHOULD JUST DO OUR OWN THING.


YEAH.
UH, WELL...
WANNA PLAY SHIRITORI?
HA HA HA


WHAT IF YOU WORK ON IT WITH HIM, SASAHARA-SAN?
THAT COULD WORK
UH... I-I'M STILL TRYING TO FORGET THE LAST TIME.
おはは
A'HA HA HA


SO YOU'RE STILL DRAWING? ARE YOU GONNA MAKE SOMETHING FOR THE COMIC-FEST?
Y-YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
THEY'RE JUST THE SAME KIND OF ROUGH SKETCHES I ALWAYS DO


...DID YOU QUIT DRAWING MANGA?
SO, HUGHYAM-SAN...


UH, W-WELL...
I-IT'S KIND OF HARD TO QUIT S-SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


HAS WORK BEEN BUSY LATELY?
THE USUAL.
I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.
B-BUT I DO GET SOME TIME OFF.

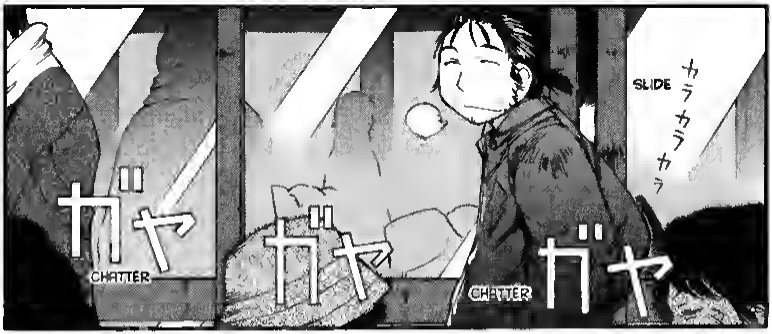

SLIDE
CLICK
WHY'S HE GETTING RYU?
HE SAW THEM AT ONE OF THE SEAFOOD STALLS AND I GUESS HE WANTED ONE.


I'M ALSO GONNA STOP BY AND PICK UP A GRILLED RYU, SO...
I'LL BE A WHILE
OKAY
RYU?


AH, OKAY
THE COLD ALWAYS MAKES ME PEE A LOT.

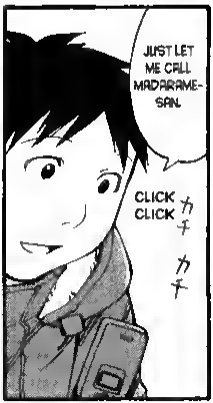



I DON'T SEE THEM.
NOMAKUSAN-MANDABASARADAN-SENDAMAKARO-JADASOWATAYWAN-TARATAKANMAN!
IS THAT FUDOUMYO-O GOSHINGEN BUDDHIST CHANTING?
IT WAS WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT ON THE STATUE OF THE FIVE DAIMYO-O GODS, WASN'T IT?
HOW DID YOU REMEMBER THAT?
YEAH, WELL, OTAKU TEND TO LIKE THAT KIND OF STUFF
NOMAKUSAN-MANDA!!
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY LIKE IT.


ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
SLIDE
カラカラカラ


THEY SAID YOU WERE IN THE REST AREA SO I THOUGHT I'D LOOK AROUND A LITTLE
AH, TANAKA-SAN. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND US.


AH, THERE YOU GUYS ARE.

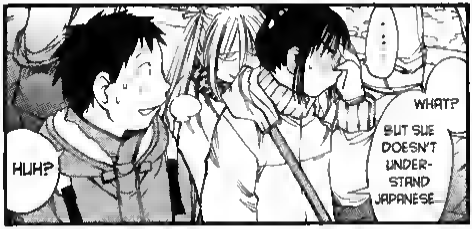

JUST LET ME CALL MADARAME-SAN.
CLICK CLICK
カチカチ


YEAH, LET'S GO.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANNA GO MEET UP WITH THEM?
THEY'RE IN PRETTY SORRY SHAPE BUT..
KUCHIKI-KUN TOOK US IN THROUGH THE BACK OF THE TEMPLE GROUNDS, SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE ANYTHING IS.


AH.
SORRY, I GOT LOST.
I THOUGHT I WAS STILL IN THE TEMPLE GROUNDS AND THEN I REALIZED I'D SOMEHOW GONE OUTSIDE...
IT'S SO CONFUSING.
NO, I MEAN, I KIND OF HAVE AN IDER WHERE I AM, BUT..
WELL, THE PLACE IS PRETTY BIG, SO...
WHAT THE HELL IS MADARAME-SAN DOING?
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD OF ME.
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM.
AH, OH THAT'S RIGHT...
DO YOU MIND GOING FOR A DRINK?
SURE, I'LL JUST MAKE SURE I DON'T DRINK SO MUCH THAT I GET HUNG OVER


SUE IS LISTENING.


I MEAN ACTUALLY I'D LIKE TO GO OFF SOMEWHERE SO IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, BUT.
GUESS THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN. HA HA.
!!


...
WHAT?
BUT SUE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE
HUH?

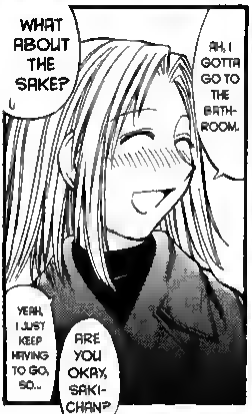

"I THINK THAT DIRTY THOUGHTS ARE BAD!"
UWAHHH




WHOA, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS HERE.
C-CAN WE ALL FIT IN HERE?
AH, FINALLY. THERE YOU GUYS ARE.
YOU'RE LATE.


OK OK
OKAY, TIME FOR A DRINK. COME ON, HURRY IT UP
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS? YOU SHOW UP LATE AND THEN YOU BRING THE MOOD DOWN?

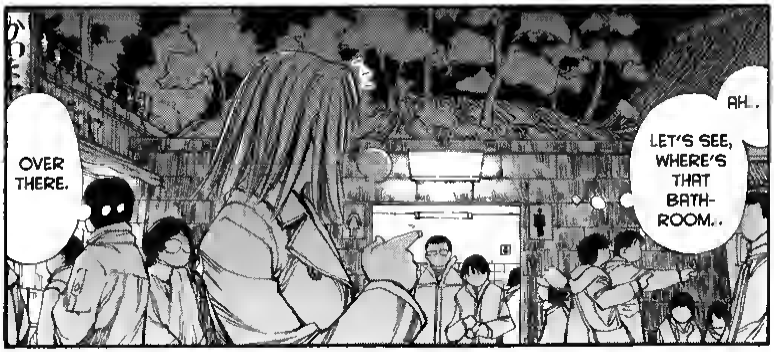

GROSS
YOU GUYS ARE TOO LATE. KUCCHI IS ALREADY WASTED
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT ALIVE, KUCHIKI-KUN.

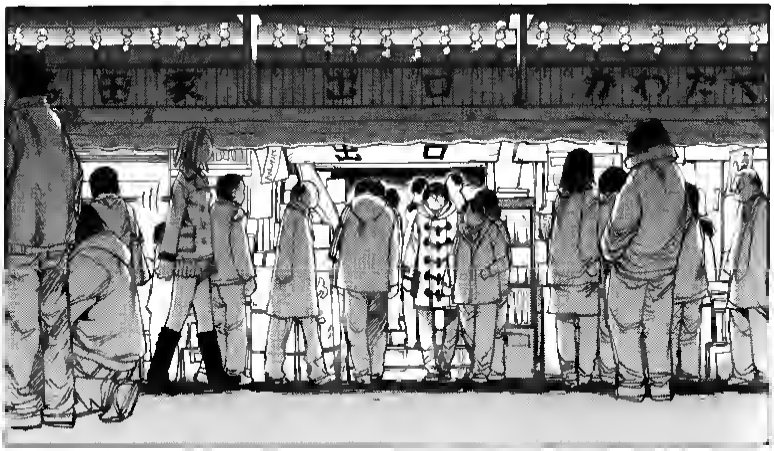

WHAT ABOUT THE SAKE?
AH, I GOTTA GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.
YEAH, I JUST KEEP MOVING TO GO, SO...
ARE YOU OKAY, SAKI-CHAN?


NOD NOD
WELL, IT'S COLD, SO...
LET'S GET SOME HOT SAKE!


TH-THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CATCH UP WITH THESE GUYS
...THIS IS BAD...
UWAHH


AH...
IT'S SO COOL OUT.

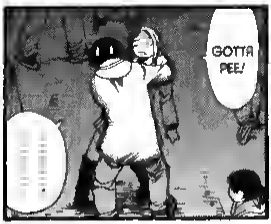

OVER THERE.
AH.. LET'S SEE, WHERE'S THAT BATH-ROOM..




I'VE GOTTA MAKE IT TO SOMEWHERE FAMILIAR SO I CAN GET MY BEARINGS.
I DIDN'T KNOW MY SENSE OF DIRECTION WAS SO BAD.
HAHH
HAHH
HUH? IS THIS EVEN A PATH?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE HELL I AM.
WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY DRINKING?
I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE.


HUH?
KASUKABE-SAN..
AH...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A PLAZA LIKE THIS.
WAHH! HUH? WAIT, ARE THOSE ALL BARS?
OH, I GUESS NOT.

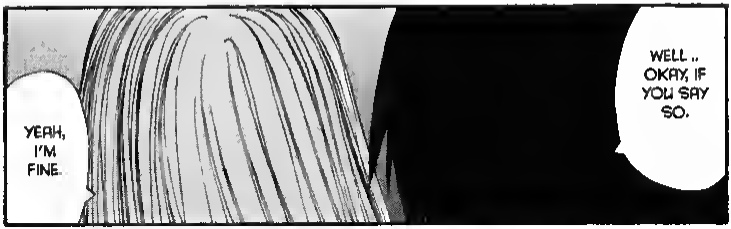



GOTTA PEE!


HUH? WHAT ARE YOU—

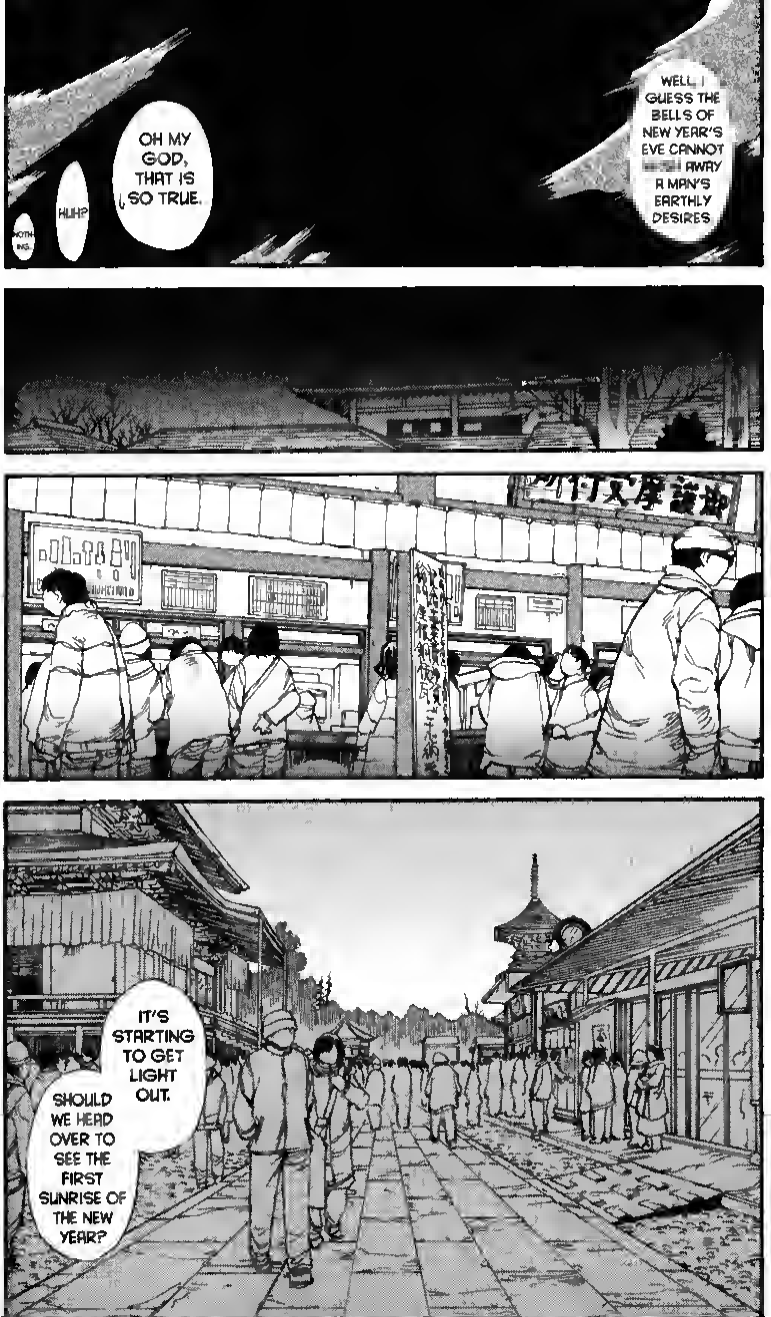



HUH?
ACTUALLY, THAT'S KIND OF GROSS, ISN'T IT.
HUH? WAIT...
YUK IT'S GROSS
...WHAT? NO...I WAS WAITING BECAUSE I NEED YOU TO SHOW ME WHAT BAR EVERYONE'S AT
HUH?
YOU WAITED FOR ME? THANKS.
GEEZ.
TRY LOOK-ING OVER THERE. IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
WELL, MAYBE, BUT...
UHH... YOU DON'T WANNA FALL DOWN AND PASS OUT LIKE YOU DID A SECOND AGO, DO YA?
I'M NOT GONNA PASS OUT.
BESIDES, I DIDN'T EVEN PASS OUT BEFORE, I WAS JUST A LITTLE LIGHTHEADED, THAT'S ALL.

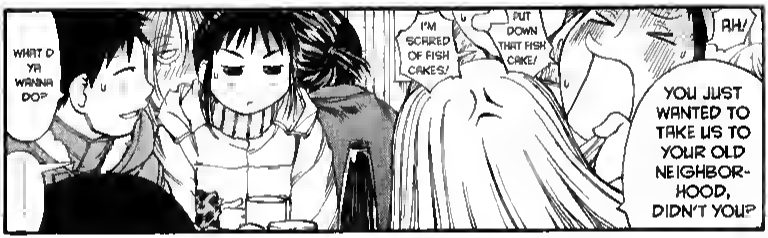

YEAH, I'M FINE.
WELL .. OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO.




IT'S RIGHT THERE...
HUH?
OH YEAH.
THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR AND SHE'S ALREADY DRUNK.
SO YOU'RE HERE.
HA, HA, SORRY.
I DIDN'T THINK WE'D END UP LIKE THIS.


WELL, I GUESS THE BELLS OF NEW YEAR'S EVE CANNOT [illegible] AWAY A MAN'S EARTHLY DESIRES.
OH MY GOD, THAT IS SO TRUE.
HUHP
NOTHING
IT'S STARTING TO GET LIGHT OUT.
SHOULD WE HEAD OVER TO SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR?


NAH, FORGET IT!
あはは
AH HA HA HA.
THERE'S NOT REALLY A GOOD SPOT TO SEE THE SUNRISE HERE, ANY-WAY.
WHAT?
NOW YOU TELL US...
THAT WAS MY WHOLE REASON FOR COMING.

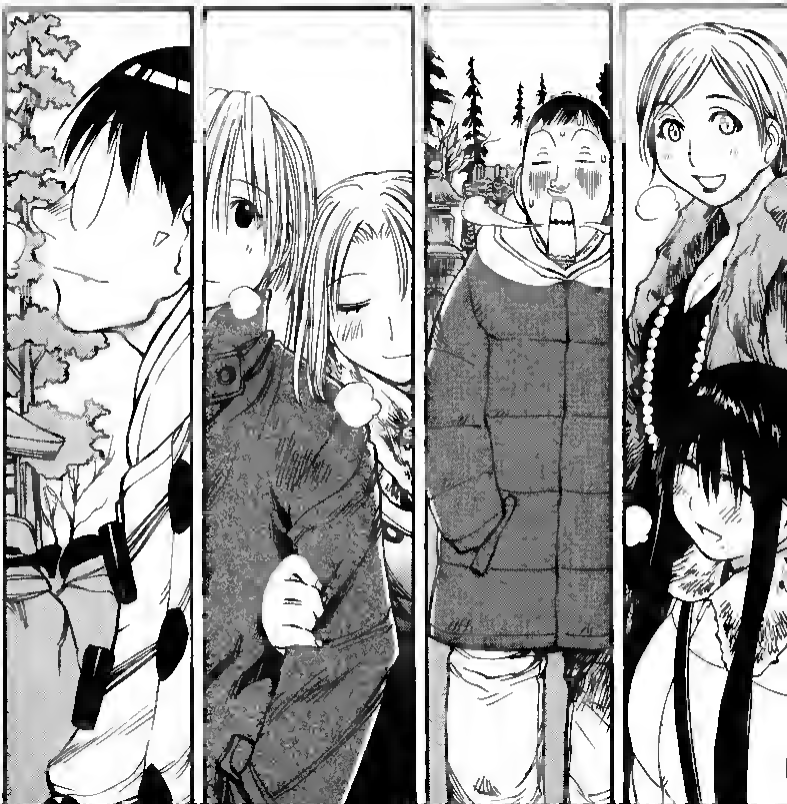

AH!
YOU JUST WANTED TO TAKE US TO YOUR OLD NEIGHBOR-HOOD, DIDN'T YOU?
PUT DOWN THAT FISH CAKE!
I'M SCARED OF FISH CAKES!
WHAT D YA WANNA DO?

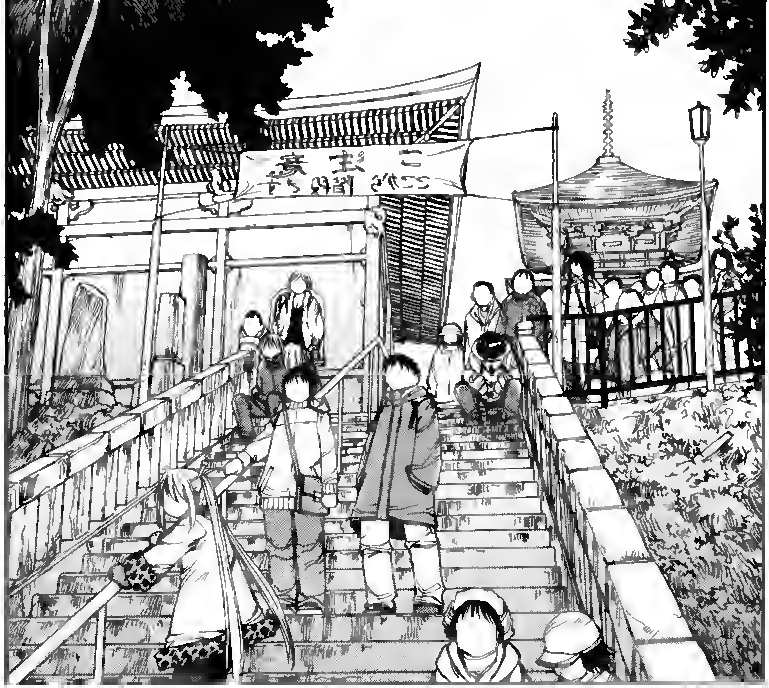



WELL, WE'RE...
GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT ANYWAY.


HUH? WAIT, I'LL COME, TOO.
ME, TOO
AH...
REALLY?
YOU TOO, KUCHIKI.
AND I AS WELL.
ME, TOO.


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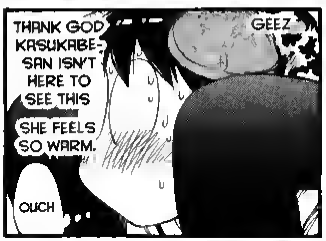

WELL, GUESS HE WAS RIGHT. IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD SPOT...
IT'S SO NARROW, AND THERE ARE TONS OF TREES EVERY-WHERE
YEAH, AND ALL YOU CAN REALLY SEE IS THE ROOFS OF ALL THOSE HOUSES

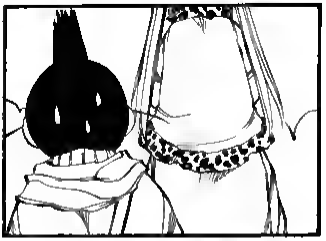

WELL, ANYWAY...
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
YEAH, HAPPY NEW YEAR.
"SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT, PAZU. WHY IS THE SUN RISING FROM OVER THERE?"


SUE, THAT'S TOO HARD-CORE FOR ANY-BODY TO GET.
I'M SLEEPY
MEANWHILE
EVERY-BODY FELL FAST ASLEEP ON THE TRAIN HOME.
NOO-MIKURIN-MANEWA-BAKAAA-CHAN
SUNE PANPAN KARO-SHIKA
UNNNN UNNNNN
BUT SUE'S BUDDHIST CHANTING CONTINUED TO ECHO SOFTLY THROUGH-OUT THE TRAIN.

IN LINE (PART 2)

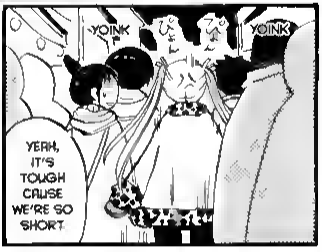


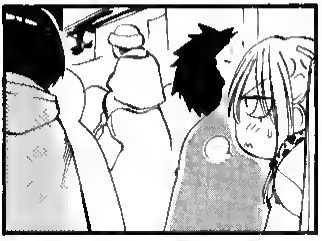


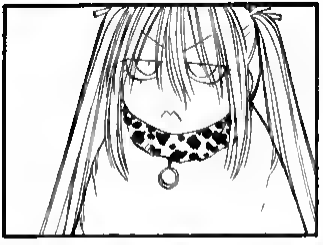




IN LINE (PART 1)



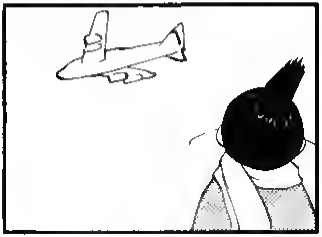






AT THE AIRPORT



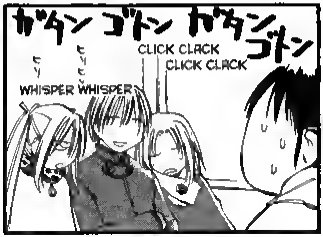




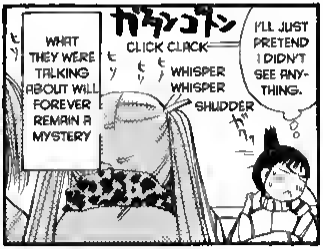


THE TRAIN RIDE HOME









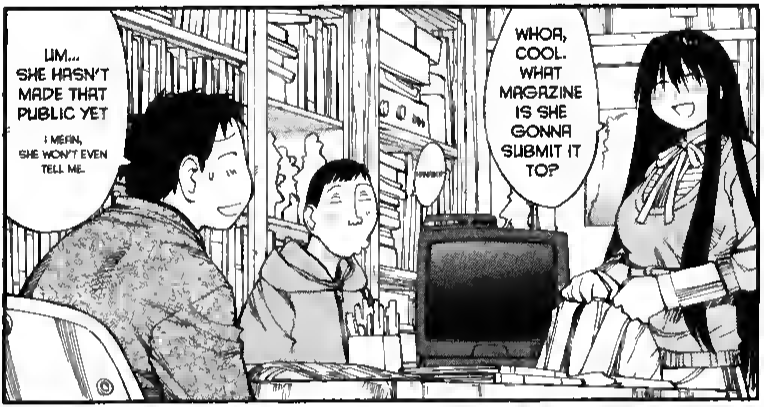

RECENTLY OGIWE...
...HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK WRITING AN ORIGINAL PROJECT THAT SHE HOPES TO SUBMIT TO A MAGAZINE.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
.....
RUB
RUB
RUB



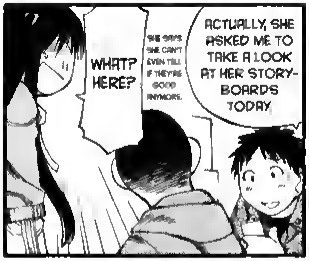
CHAPTER 52 -

RAIN OR SHINE


OGIWE-SAN IS? SHE'S GONNA SUBMIT A MANGA?
HUH?


UM... SHE HASN'T MADE THAT PUBLIC YET
I MEAN, SHE WON'T EVEN TELL ME.
WHOA, COOL. WHAT MAGAZINE IS SHE GONNA SUBMIT IT TO?


I DON'T KNOW.
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S FINALLY DECIDED TO TRY TO BECOME A REAL MANGA ARTIST.
WELL, SHE COULD PROBABLY DO BOTH.
YEAH...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA CONCENTRATE ON THAT STUFF.
OGIWE-SAN'S ALREADY SO INVOLVED WITH DOUJINSHI.



*SPOKEN IN ENGLISH



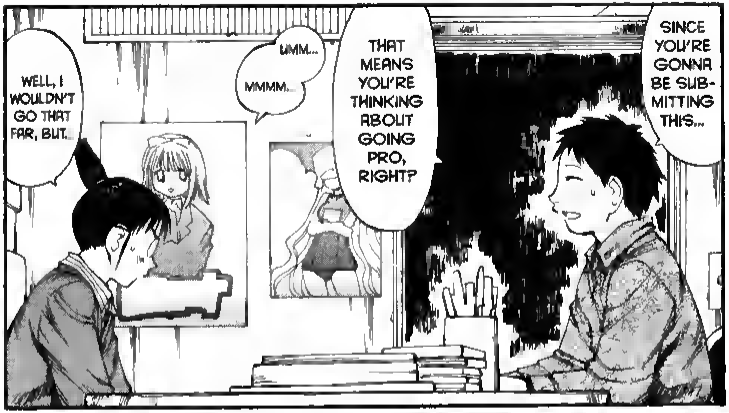




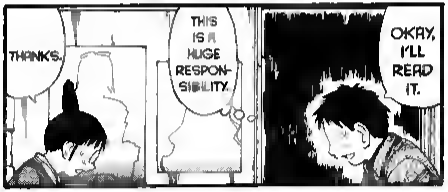


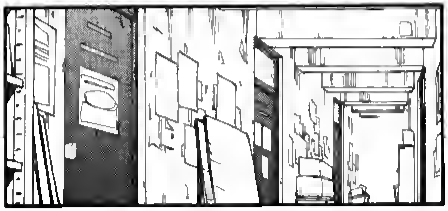



SHE'S RIGHT...
I KNOW SHE'S RIGHT, BUT STILL...
SIGH...
I'M SORRY.
I KNOW I SHOULD DO IT ON MY OWN, BUT...
I'VE READ THROUGH IT SO MANY TIMES, I JUST CAN'T TELL ANYMORE.
AH, UM .LET ME JUST MAKE SURE OF ONE THING.
YEAH.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.
THERE'RE 52 PAGES.
OKAY. I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ANY HELP, BUT...
THAT'S A LOT OF PAGES.


SINCE YOU'RE GONNA BE SUBMITTING THIS...
THAT MEANS YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GOING PRO, RIGHT?
UMM...
MMMM...
WELL, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR, BUT...


OH...
MAYBE SHE'S...
...HOPING TO GET A JOB AS A PRO AFTER SHE GRADUATES.
I MEAN, SHE IS A JUNIOR THIS YEAR

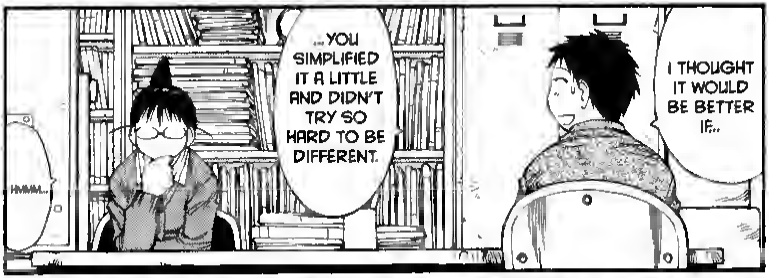

OKAY, I'LL READ IT.
THIS IS A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY.
THANKS.




I GUESS I'M JUST KIND OF TESTING THE WATERS...
JUST GIVING IT A TRY TO SEE HOW IT GOES.


YEAH, SO...
IT DID FEEL A LITTLE HARD TO GET THROUGH.
AH... IT DID?
THE OPENING IS REALLY LONG AND THE STORY TAKES A LONG TIME TO GET GOING.
SO IT KIND OF MESSES UP THE TEMPO FOR THE WHOLE BOOK.
YEAH...
YEAH.
YEAH, IT DOES.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD KEEP GOING...?


I THINK YOU NEED TO CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE MAIN CHARACTER'S AND THE SUPPORTING CHARACTER'S.
SO IT'S LIKE "WAIT, WHO IS THIS STORY ABOUT?"
AND THE STORY DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A SPECIFIC POINT OF VIEW...
SO THAT TAKES UP A LOT OF PAGES.
AND... THERE ARE KIND OF A LOT OF CHARACTERS.
AS A READER, I FELT LIKE THE STORY I WANTED TO READ WASN'T WHAT WAS UNFOLDING ON THE PAGE
I THINK YOU TOOK IT A LITTLE TOO FAR. IT MAKES IT HARD FOR THE READER TO FOCUS ON THE STORY
YEAH, I COULD TELL THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GOING FOR, BUT...
UH HUH.
UH HUH...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING FOR, I MEAN, I INTENTIONALLY TRIED TO MAKE IT SO THE STORY WASN'T LIMITED TO JUST THE MAIN CHARACTER'S
UH, WELL...


HMMM...
...YOU SIMPLIFIED IT A LITTLE AND DIDN'T TRY SO HARD TO BE DIFFERENT.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF...




UH- OH, I THINK I SAID TOO MUCH.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
I JUST THINK THERE'S A WAY TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER
HUH?
EH?
SO YOU MEAN...

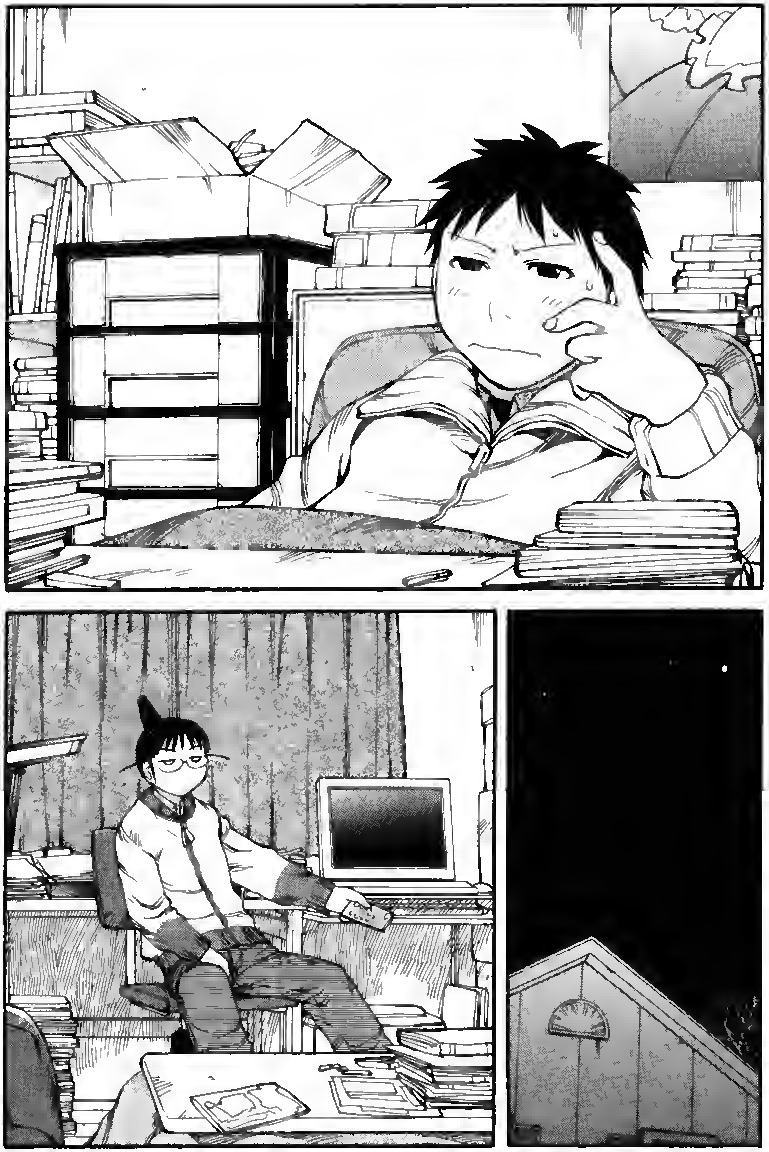

S-
SO DOES THAT MEAN..
THAT THIS STORY I THOUGHT WAS SO GREAT WAS ACTUALLY JUST.... LAME?


HUH?


THIS SUCKS...
SO IF I WANNA FIX IT— I PRETTY MUCH HAVE TO REDO THE WHOLE THING, DON'T I?
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE SAYING IT'S GARBAGE?
AND IF YOU THINK THAT'S GARBAGE...
THAT MUST MEAN THAT YOU THINK I'M GARBAGE TOO, RIGHT?


HUH? ...HUH? WAHHHH!
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT?


IN THIS SCENE YOU COULD MAKE THE MAIN CHARACTER'S EMOTIONAL--
AH, WELL.. FOR EXAMPLE..
THE WHOLE THING'S A MESS, THERE'S NOT EVEN A SINGLE SCENE I CAN USE...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE MUMBLE
HUH? SO THEN WHAT ARE YOU SAYING SHOULD POP
FINE THEN, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE IT, SASAHARA-SAN!!

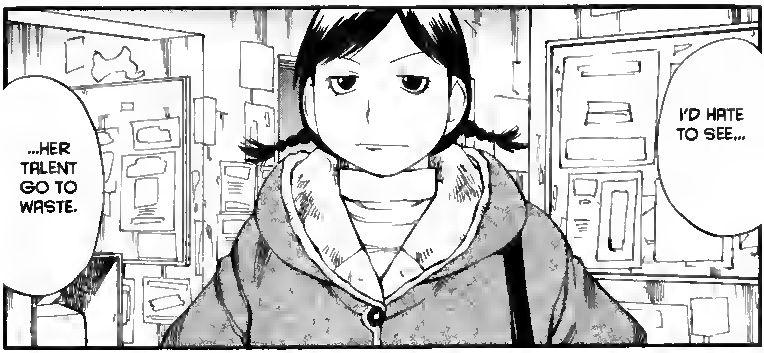





HOW'D IT GO YESTERDAY?
HOW WAS OGIUE-SAN'S MANGA?
I'M SORRY, NO COMMENT.
WHAT? THAT'S NO FAIR, KEEPING IT ALL TO YOURSELF LIKE THAT.
WELL... SORRY, BUT...


!
TAPPA
AH, YABUSAKI-SAN.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
UH... NOTHING.
NOT EXACT LY
NO...
DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?
BLINK
HUH?
YOU'RE HER BOY FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?
WHY NOT?
AHH... SHE'S NOT HERE TODAY.
THIS IS PERFECT TIMING. CAN YOU GET OGIUE FOR ME?
UM...
UH..
UH...
SO DID SOME THING HAPPEN?
WELL, I MEAN... IT ACTUALLY MIGHT BE A GOOD THING IF SOMETHING DID HAPPEN, BUT...
YEAH, I WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING TO OGIUE.
TELL ME. TELL ME.
WELL... UM.
UH...
OH, WELL... COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HER?
NOT RIGHT AWAY.

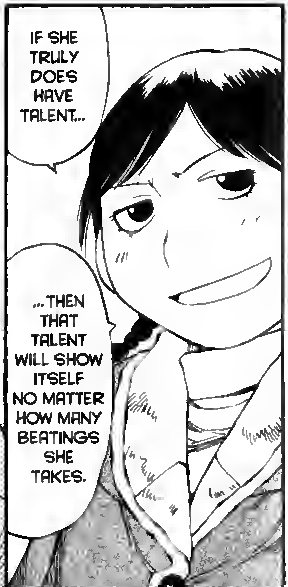

...SUBMIT HER STUFF, EH/
OH, SO SHE'S GONNA...
WELL, YOU KNOW, I'M JUST A NOVICE MYSELF, SO...
...ABOUT HOW TO MAKE IT AS A PRO, BUT...
WELL, I WAS JUST TRYING TO GIVE HER ADVICE..
GEEZ.. SHE NEVER TELLS ME ANY-THING.
THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO.
BUT IF OGIUE-SAN ENDS UP GIVING UP BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID...
NEVER MIND. I DON'T WANNA GET INTO IT.
HUH?
LIKE THE GUYS IN THE MANGA CLUB DO...
WELL, BETTER YOU GIVE IT TO HER STRAIGHT THAN JUST SWEET-TALKING HER.


...HER TALENT GO TO WASTE.
I'D HATE TO SEE...


REAL TALENT DOESN'T ADMIT DEFEAT AFTER ONE LITTLE BEATING.




...CRUSHED...
SHE'S GOTTA BE READY TO BE HATED...
...AND FORGOTTEN...
...BEATEN DOWN...


IF SHE TRULY DOES HAVE TALENT...
...THEN THAT TALENT WILL SHOW ITSELF NO MATTER HOW MANY BEATINGS SHE TAKES.


ACTUALLY, SASAHARA-SAN...
THAT'S WHAT I HATE THE MOST ABOUT OGIWE.
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS TO HER BOYFRIEND, BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO HER...
SHE ALWAYS COMES BACK FIGHTING.


I MEAN...OKAY, YEAH, SHE'S A PRETTY GOOD ARTIST, BUT....
I DON'T SEE WHY SHE HAS TO BE SO OBNOXIOUS ABOUT IT.


AND AFTER ALL THIS TIME, NOW SHE SUDDENLY WANTS TO START SUBMITTING HER STUFF?
I MEAN, WHAT IS SHE EVEN THINKING?
GOD...


I THINK YOU OUGHTA PUT HER IN HER PLACE.
UH...
YABUSAKI-SAN WANTED ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
WELL, HERE YOU GO.
AH... UH...
AH...
AHH, RIGHT...
THANK YOU.


ACTUALLY, I JUST...
...FINISHED REDOING THE WHOLE STORY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE SHOWS HER STUFF TO HER BOY-FRIEND!
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!
NOT THAT I HAVE A BOYFRIEND, BUT STILL...
THEN ON TOP OF THAT, SHE FREAK'S OUT WHEN HE GIVES HER HIS NOTES... GOD ...

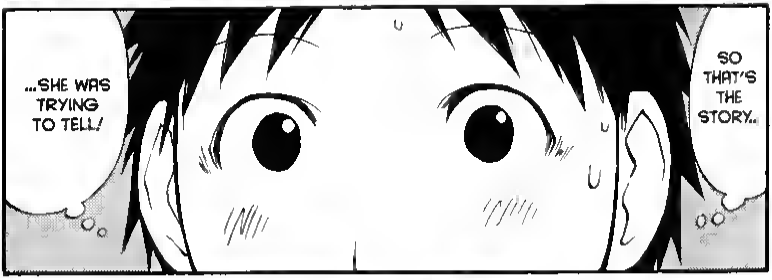

SHE'S WAY TOO DEPENDENT ON SASAHARA-SAN.
IF YOU ASK ME...
GOD, SHE PISSES ME OFF!

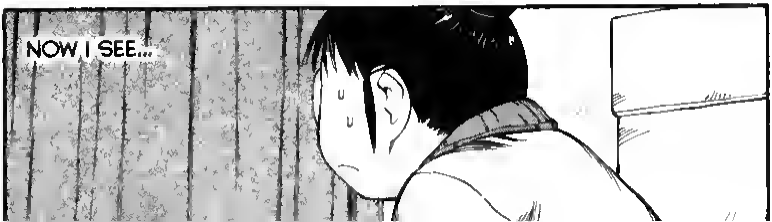

HMM...


YABUSAKI-SAN KNOWS OGIWA A LOT BETTER THAN I DO.

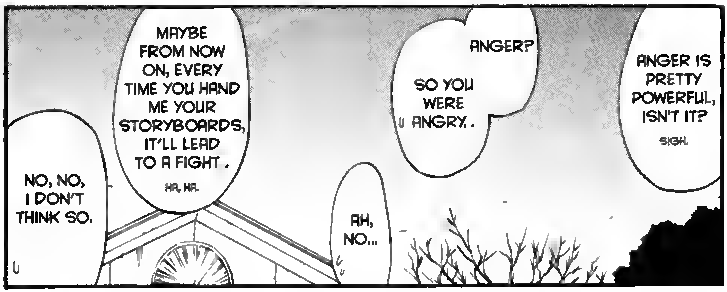

50 PAGES IN ONE NIGHT...
I WONDER HOW SHE COMPARES.
ONODERA-SAN SAID THAT THE ARTISTS WHO WRITE WEEKLY MANGA SERIES WORK REALLY FAST...


SHE CUT A LOT OF SCENES AND DIALOGUE, AND NOW THE STORY FLOWS A LOT BETTER, AND THE CHARACTERS ARE MUCH MORE DEFINED.
I KNOW THIS IS THE SAME STORY, BUT SOMEHOW IT SEEMS WAY MORE INTERESTING.
EVEN THOUGH THE ENDING IS EXACTLY THE SAME, EVERYTHING THAT LEADS UP TO IT SO MUCH MORE CAPTIVATING NOW. THE LAST SCENE HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF IMPACT!
SHE TOTALLY CHANGED THE STRUCTURE OF THE STORY, TOO. NOW IT TAKES OFF RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, AND IT REALLY CAPTURES THE READER'S ATTENTION.


...SHE WAS TRYING TO TELL!
SO THAT'S THE STORY..


NOW I SEE...


...JUST WHAT KIND OF MANGA ARTIST OGIUE-SAN IS...
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
I TOTALLY GOT IT!
I THINK IT'S READY TO PRINT.
AH... REALLY?
THANK GOD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOOK THAT SAME STORY AND MADE IT SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL...
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
YOU TAUGHT ME A LOT!
I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WROTE ALL THAT IN ONE NIGHT.

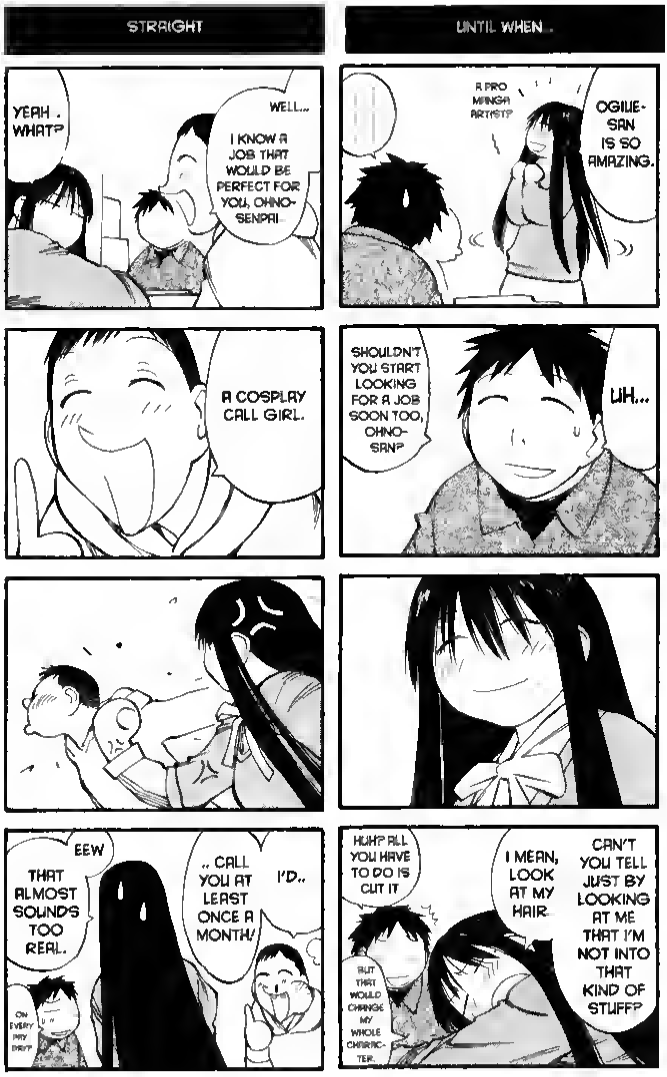

ANGER IS PRETTY POWERFUL, ISN'T IT?
SIGH.
ANGER?
SO YOU WERE ANGRY.
MAYBE FROM NOW ON, EVERY TIME YOU HAND ME YOUR STORYBOARDS, IT'LL LEAD TO A FIGHT.
HA, HA.
NO, NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
AH, NO...


I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN DO TO HELP HER...
BUT.

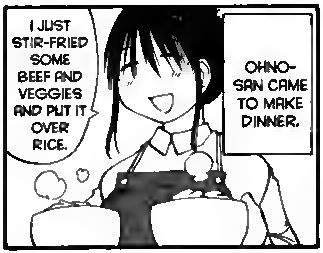

I'LL FIGHT WITH YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT IF THAT'S WHAT HELPS YOU!
HA, HA, HA.
AH
ACTU-ALLY...

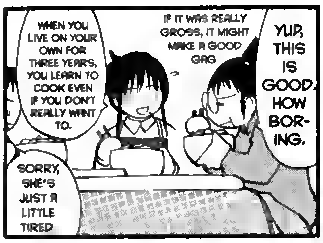


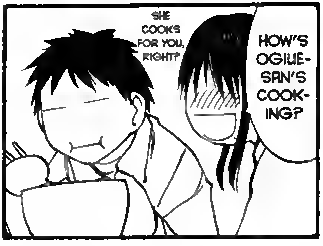
END OF CHAPTER 52


STRAIGHT
UNTIL WHEN..
YEAH. WHAT?
WELL... I KNOW A JOB THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR YOU, OHNO-SENPAI
A PRO MANGA ARTIST?
OGIUE-SAN IS SO AMAZING.
A COSPLAY CALL GIRL.
SHOULDN'T YOU START LOOKING FOR A JOB SOON TOO, OHNO-SAN?
UH...
EEW
THAT ALMOST SOUNDS TOO REAL.
.. CALL YOU AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH/
I'D..
OH EVERY MY DIRT
HUH? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CUT IT
I MEAN, LOOK AT MY HAIR.
CAN'T YOU TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT ME THAT I'M NOT INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF?
BUT THAT WOULD CHANGE MY WHOLE CHARAC-TER.

MY PATH TO MANGA (2)

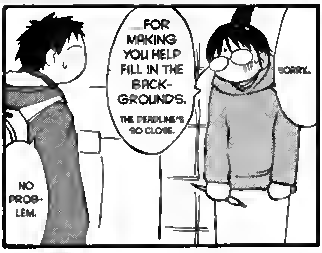






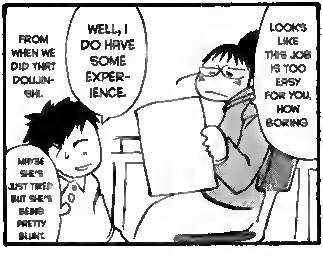


MY PATH TO MANGA (1)





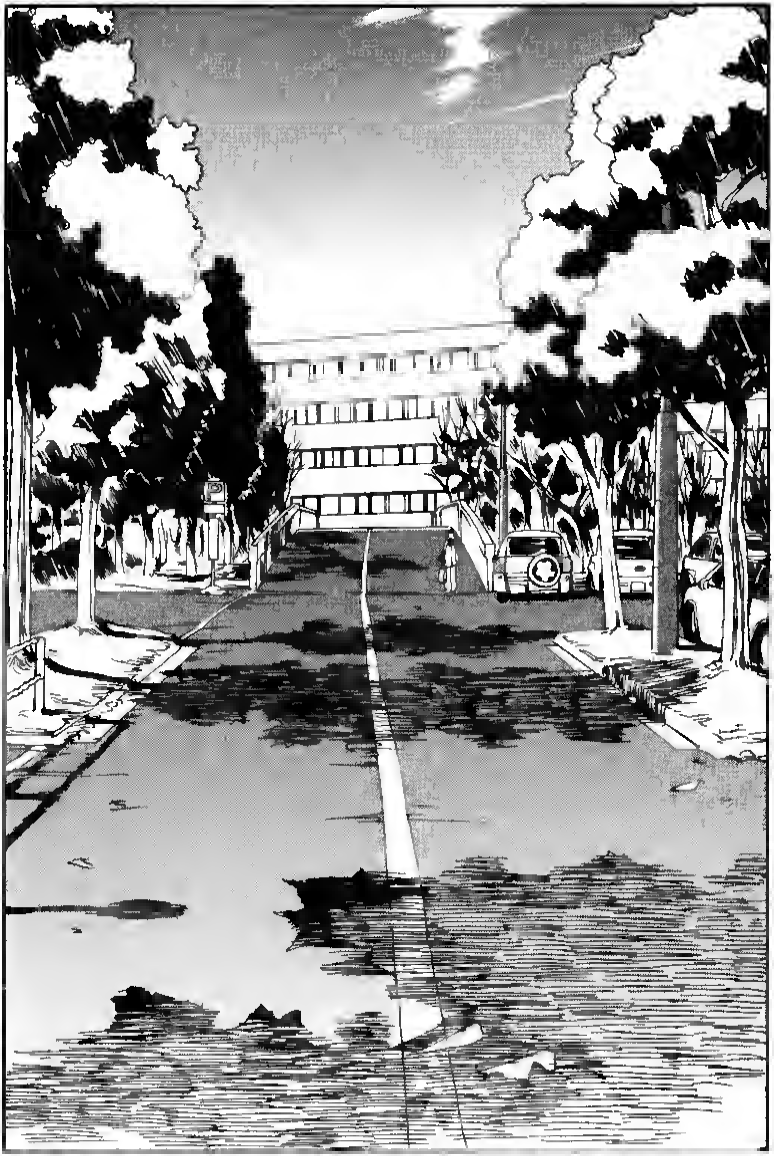


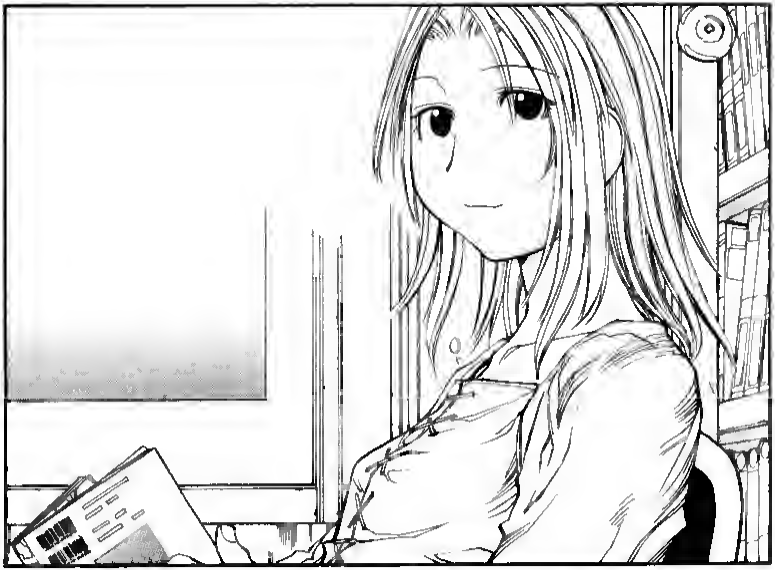


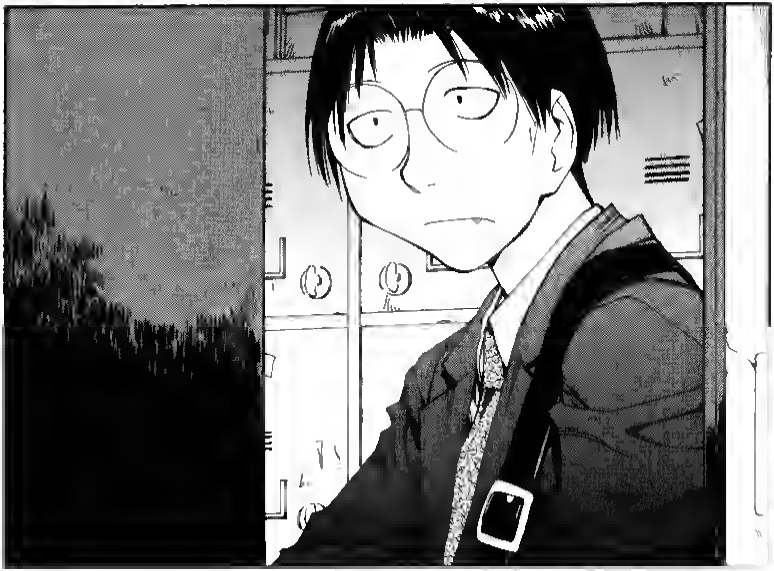


CHAPTER 53 -

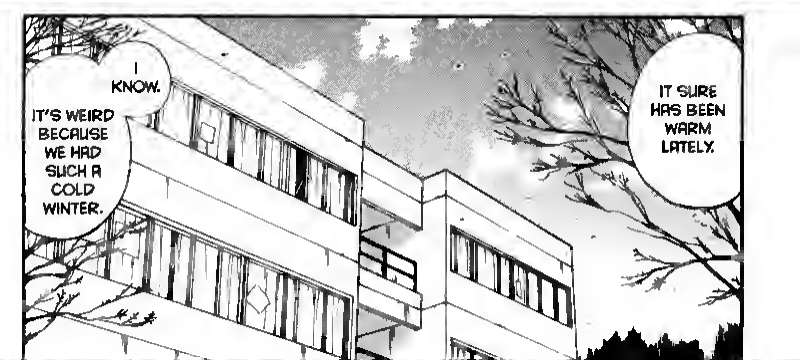
THE CONFESSION

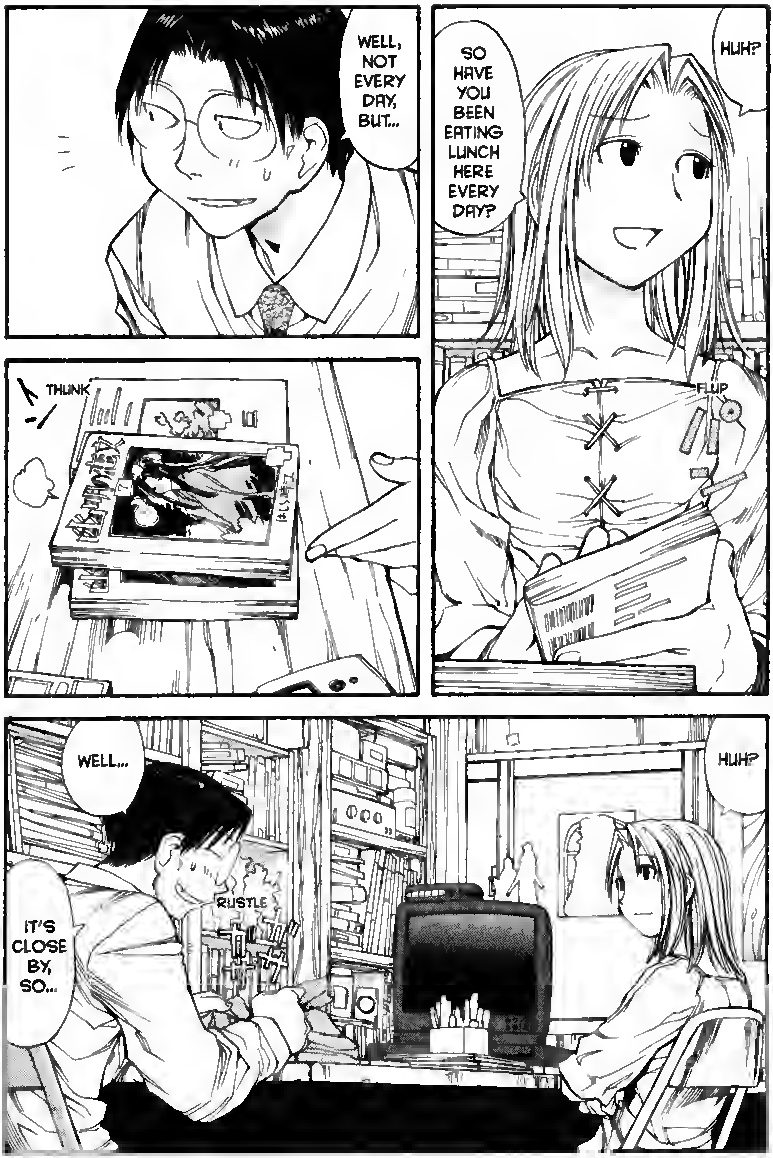


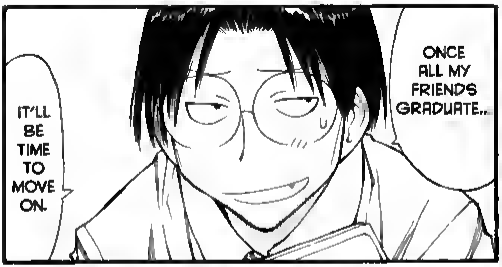




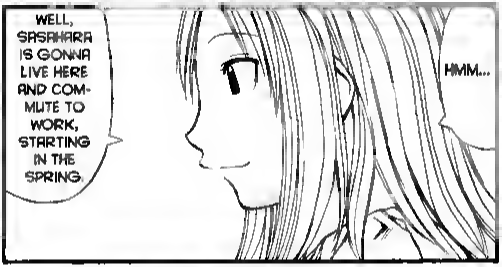

WOW.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
AH, YEAH
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU.


I KNOW.
IT'S WEIRD BECAUSE WE HAD SUCH A COLD WINTER.
IT SURE HAS BEEN WARM LATELY.

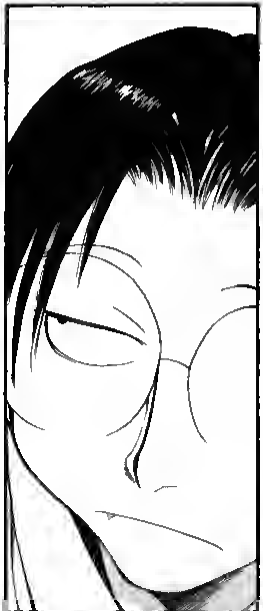

WELL, NOT EVERY DAY, BUT...
SO HAVE YOU BEEN EATING LUNCH HERE EVERY DAY?
HUH?
THUNK
FLIP
WELL...
IT'S CLOSE BY, SO...
RUSTLE
HUH?

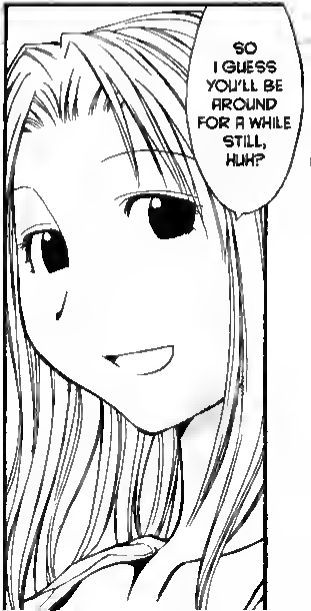

ONCE ALL MY FRIENDS GRADUATE...
IT'LL BE TIME TO MOVE ON.

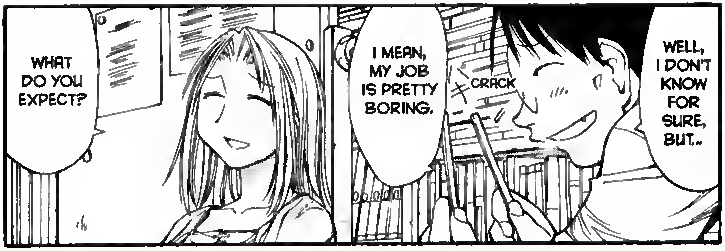

YEAH, SO...ARE YOU JUST GONNA LIVE AROUND HERE YOUR WHOLE LIFE?
AND COME BY FOR LUNCH EVERY DAY?
NO, NO.
THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.


HMM...
WELL, SASAHARA IS GONNA LIVE HERE AND COMMUTE TO WORK, STARTING IN THE SPRING.


UH...
YEAH...

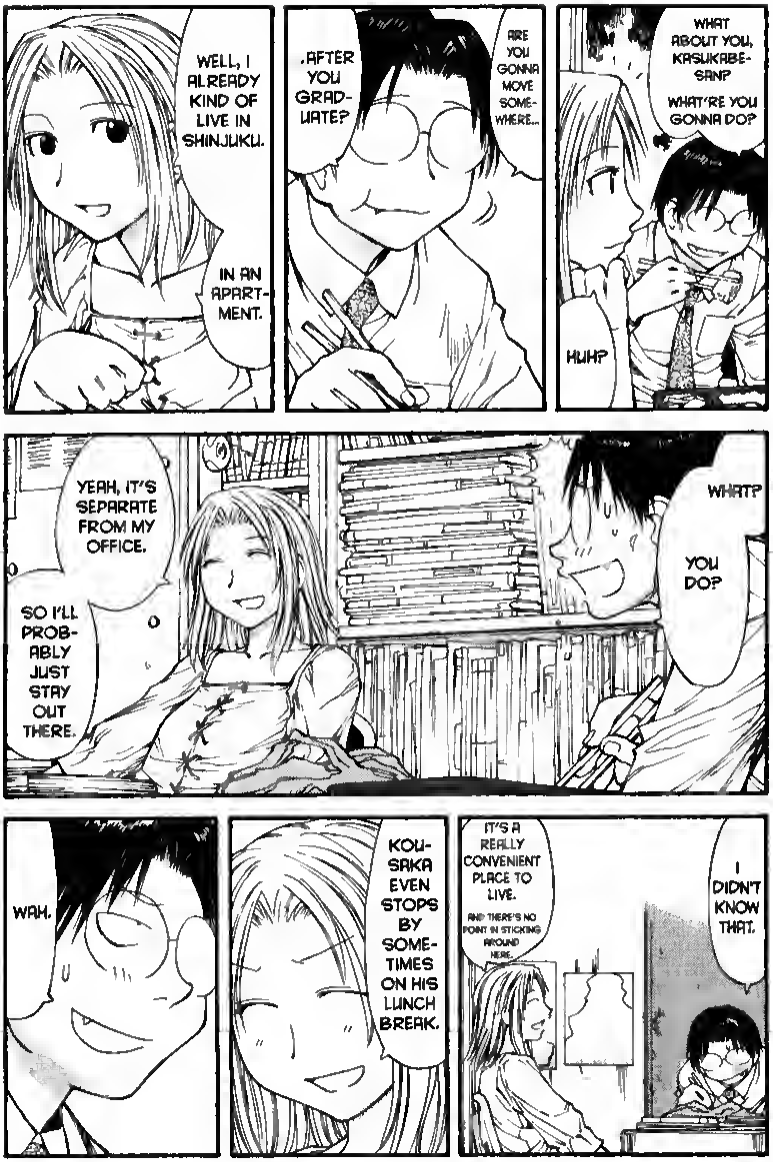


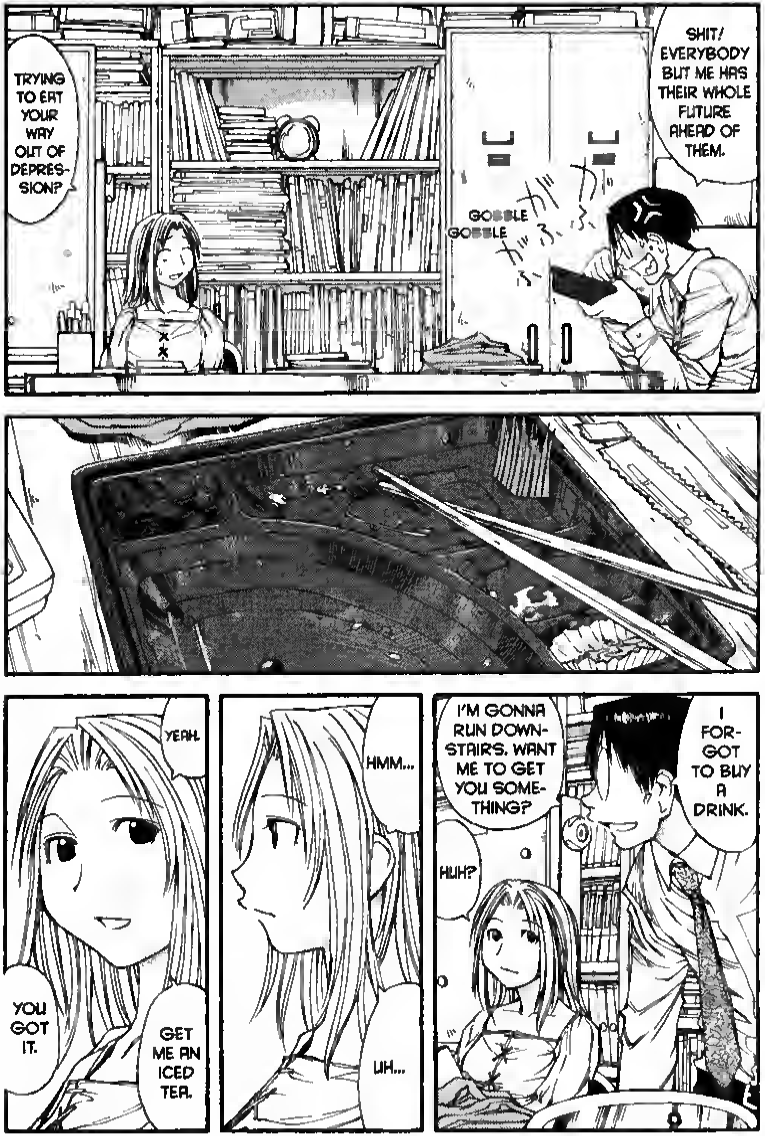

SO I GUESS YOU'LL BE AROUND FOR A WHILE STILL, HUH?


WELL, I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT..
CRACK
I MEAN, MY JOB IS PRETTY BORING.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

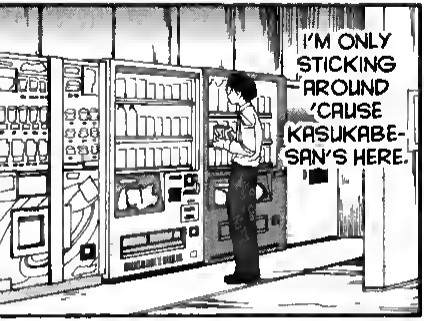

YEAH... GRADUATION...
FOUR YEARS...
IT SOUNDS LIKE A LONG TIME... BUT IT WENT BY SO FAST..


YEAH...


WELL, I ALREADY KIND OF LIVE IN SHINJUKU.
IN AN APART-MENT.
AFTER YOU GRAD-UATE?
ARE YOU GONNA MOVE SOME-WHERE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KASUKABE-SAN?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
HUH?
YEAH, IT'S SEPARATE FROM MY OFFICE.
SO I'LL PROB-ABLY JUST STAY OUT THERE.
WHAT?
YOU DO?
WAH.
KOU-SAKA EVEN STOPS BY SOME-TIMES ON HIS LUNCH BREAK.
IT'S A REALLY CONVENIENT PLACE TO LIVE.
AND THERE'S NO POINT IN STICKING AROUND HERE.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.


TRYING TO EAT YOUR WAY OUT OF DEPRESSION?
GOBBLE GOBBLE
SHIT! EVERYBODY BUT ME HAS THEIR WHOLE FUTURE AHEAD OF THEM.
I FORGOT TO BUY A DRINK.
I'M GONNA RUN DOWNSTAIRS. WANT ME TO GET YOU SOMETHING?
HUH?
HMM...
UH...
GET ME AN ICED TEA.
YEAH.
YOU GOT IT.


KALUNK
PLUNK


I'M ONLY STICKING AROUND 'CAUSE KASUKABE-SAN'S HERE.


I DON'T TAKE IT ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.
OF COURSE, I CAN'T ASK FOR ANY MORE THAN THAT.


I KNOW.


ONCE ALL MY FRIENDS GRADUATE, IT'LL BE TIME TO MOVE ON?
THAT WAS A LIE.

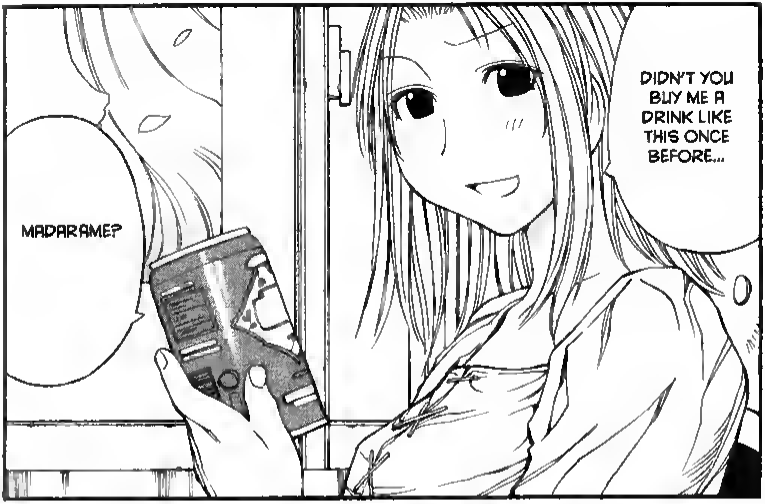

IF I HAPPEN TO SEE HER AT THE GENSHIKEN ONCE IN A WHILE, I'M SATISFIED.

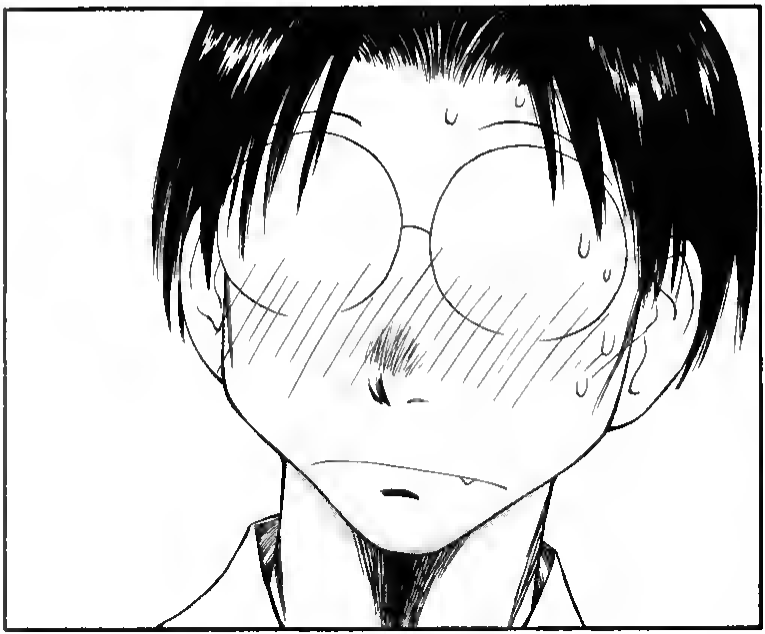

I CAN GIVE UP.


SO REALLY, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WAS MEANT TO HAPPEN.
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.


...THAT I'M LETTING MY ONLY CHANCE PASS ME BY.
AND WHEN IT FINALLY DOES, THEN AT LAST...


HERE YOU GO.
THANKS. HERE'S THE MONEY.
OKAY.
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
CREAK
UH... NO...
NOTHING

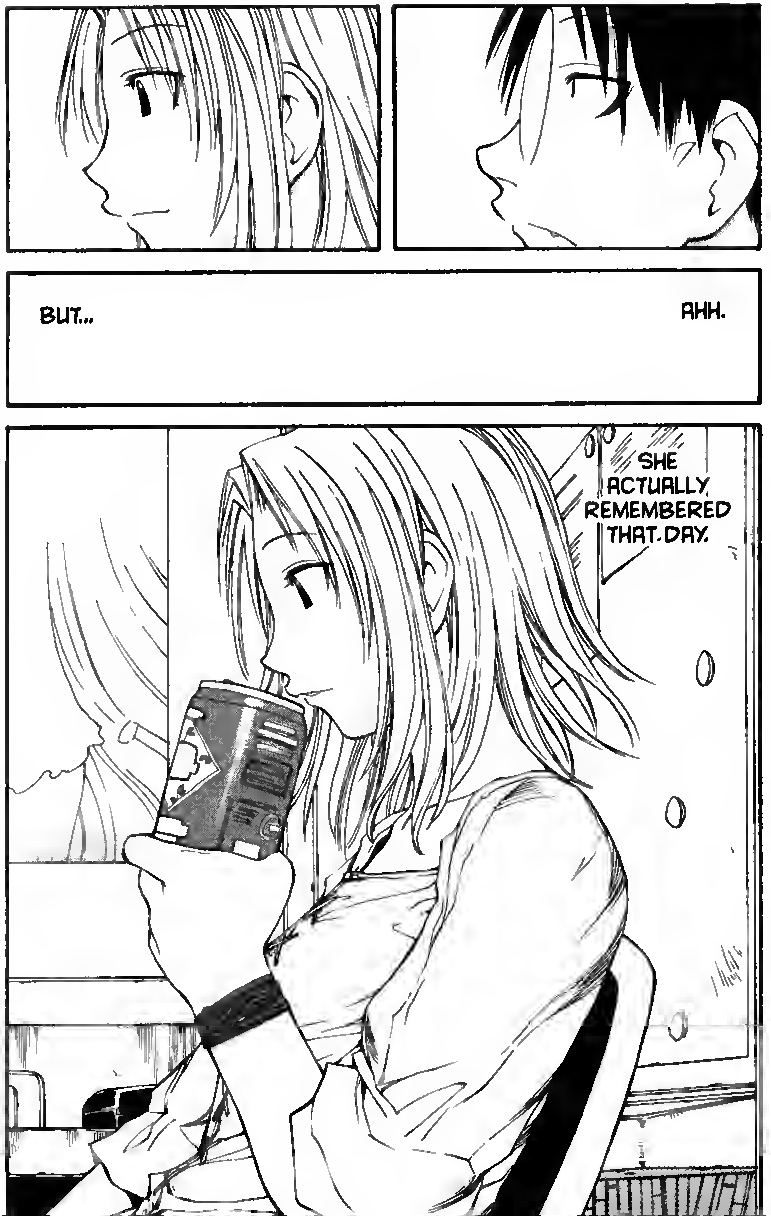

DIDN'T YOU BUY ME A DRINK LIKE THIS ONCE BEFORE...
MADARAME?




HUH? I THINK I WAS EVEN READING THE SAME MANGA.
A LONG TIME AGO...
HUH? DID I?
HUH? YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
NO, I SURE DON'T


GOD, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT AT ALL.
YOU DID?
AND I THINK I HIT YOU RIGHT AFTER YOU GAVE IT TO ME...
OH. REALLY?
FLICK カチカチ
FWICK
WELL, NEVER MIND THEN.
SORRY.
OH...

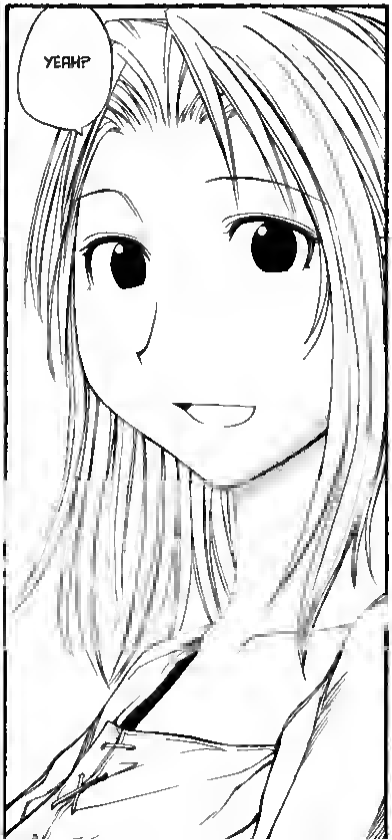

I MEAN, I WAS ALREADY THINKING ABOUT IT. THE MOMENT I SAW THAT MANGA I REMEMBERED IT.
OF COURSE I REMEMBER THAT DAY.
...ABOUT THAT NOSE HAIR.
FWICK
BUT, I SHOULDN'T SAY ANY-THING...
I'LL TAKE IT WITH ME TO THE GRAVE.
HEH, HEH.
IN A WAY, IT'S LIKE MY OWN SECRET MEMORY!


BUT...
AHH.
SHE ACTUALLY REMEMBERED THAT DAY.

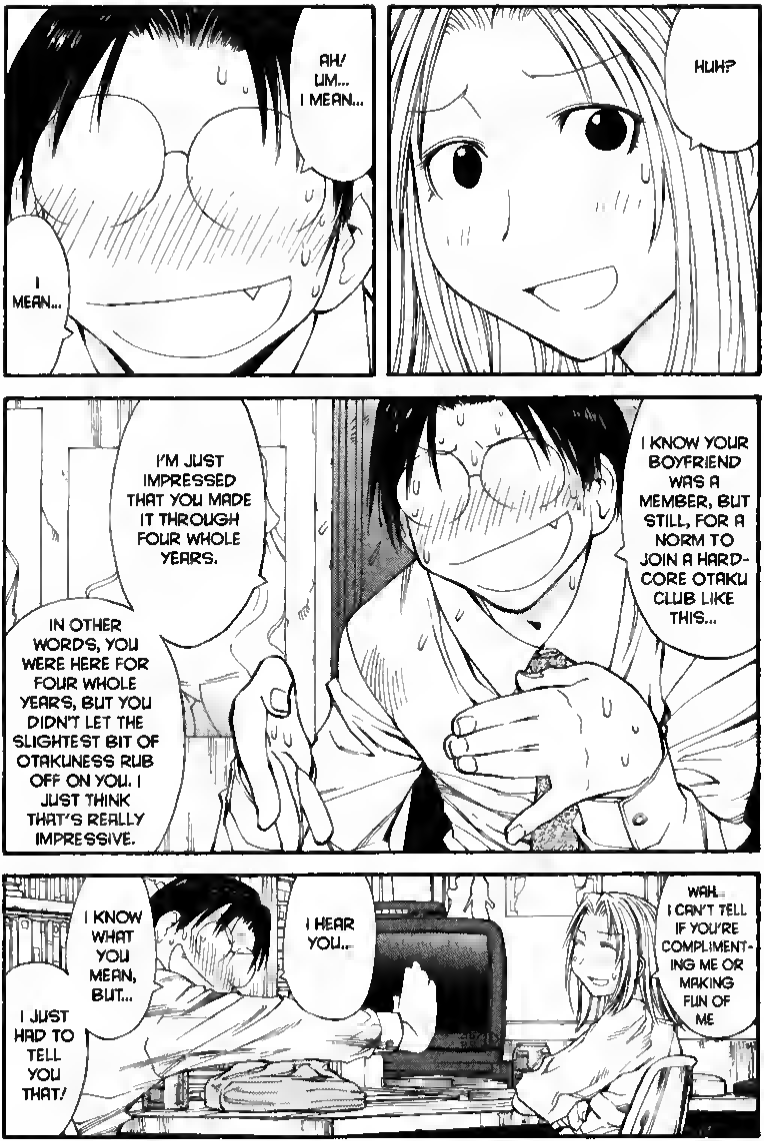

I BET NOW WE COULD TOTALLY LAUGH ABOUT THE WHOLE NOSE HAIR THING.
WAH, I WANNA TELL HER. I WANNA TELL HER SO BAD.
ALL THOSE THINGS...
...THAT I COULD NEVER SAY.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
I WANNA TELL HER EVERYTHING.
SHOULD I TELL HER? SHOULD I TELL HER? IS IT OKAY TO TELL HER? YEAH, DO IT!
DO IT BEFORE YOU OVERTHINK THE WHOLE THING!
SINCE I KNOW IT'S ALL HOPELESS ANYWAY, I MIGHT AS WELL JUST TELL HER AND GO OUT WITH A BANG. THAT'LL HELP GIVE ME SOME CLOSURE!

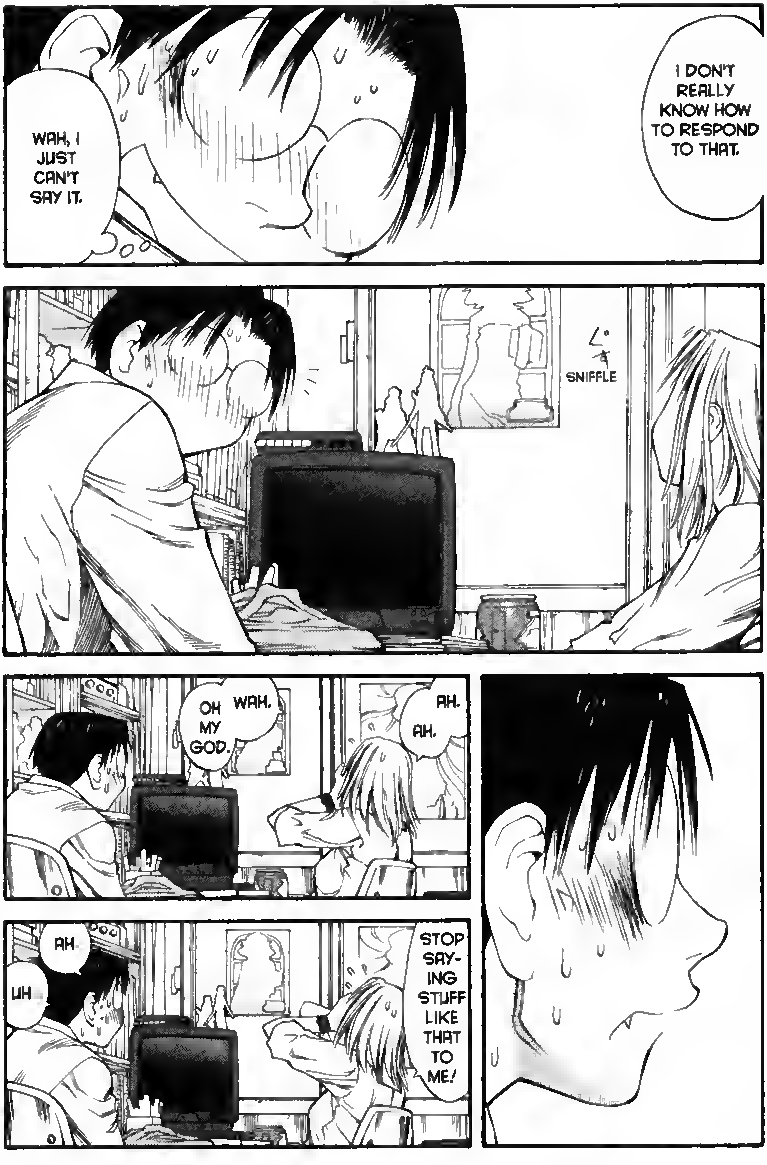

HUH?
UM...
KASUKABE-SAN?

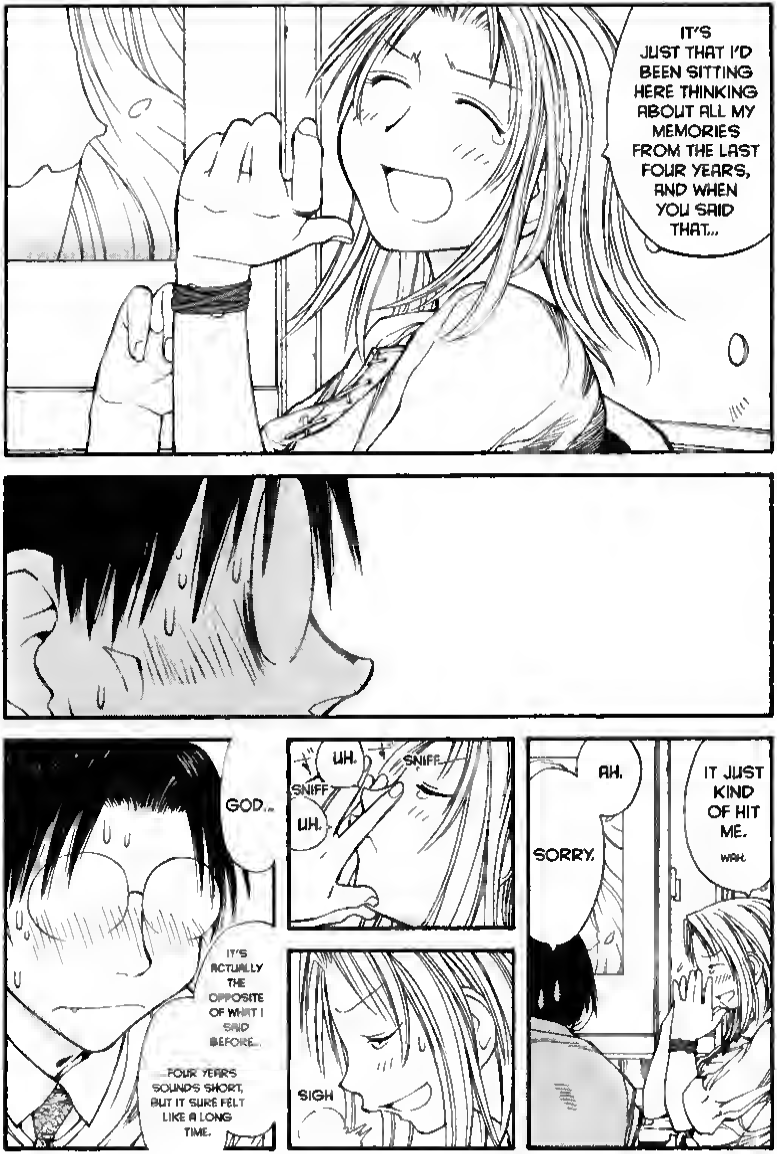

UH...
LET'S SEE HERE...


YEAH?


I JUST WANNA THANK YOU FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.


AH/ UM... I MEAN...
I MEAN...
HUH?
I KNOW YOUR BOYFRIEND WAS A MEMBER, BUT STILL, FOR A NORM TO JOIN A HARD-CORE OTAKU CLUB LIKE THIS...
I'M JUST IMPRESSED THAT YOU MADE IT THROUGH FOUR WHOLE YEARS.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WERE HERE FOR FOUR WHOLE YEARS, BUT YOU DIDN'T LET THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF OTAKUNESS RUB OFF ON YOU. I JUST THINK THAT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE.
WAH... I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE COMPLIMENTING ME OR MAKING FUN OF ME
I HEAR YOU...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT...
I JUST HAD TO TELL YOU THAT!


I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT.
WAH, I JUST CAN'T SAY IT.
SNIFFLE
WAH.
OH MY GOD.
AH.
AH.
AH.
UH
STOP SAY-ING STUFF LIKE THAT TO ME!


IT'S JUST THAT I'D BEEN SITTING HERE THINKING ABOUT ALL MY MEMORIES FROM THE LAST FOUR YEARS, AND WHEN YOU SAID THAT...
GOD...
IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I SAID BEFORE...
...FOUR YEARS SOUNDS SHORT, BUT IT SURE FELT LIKE A LONG TIME.
UH.
SNIFF
SNIFF
UH.
SIGH
AH.
SORRY.
IT JUST KIND OF HIT ME.
WAH.


YOU KNOW, I SHOULD BE THE ONE THANKING YOU FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME...
...FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.
NO... THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THANKS

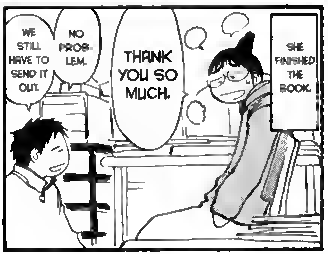

AHH.
NOW I'M GLAD I DIDN'T TELL HER.
カシャッ!
CLICK
HELLO!
AH, HI.
TAPPA
TAPPA
SORRY I'M LATE, SAKI-SAN.
PANT
はー
PANT
YOU'RE NOT THAT LATE.
AH, DID YOU GUYS HAVE PLANS?


COME ON IN, EVERYBODY.
EH.. DO WHAT?
SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL?
WHY DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?
HEH, HEH, SAKI-SAN..
YOU PROMISED. YOU PROMISED YOU'D DO IT...REMEMBER?
HEH
WE'VE GOT 15 BOXES FULL OF COSPLAY OUTFITS FOR YOU, SAKI-SAN.
WE GOT KUGAYAMA-SAN TO BRING THEM OVER HERE IN HIS CAR.
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE



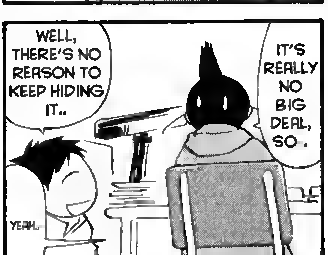
END OF CHAPTER 53

MY PATH TO MANGA (3)

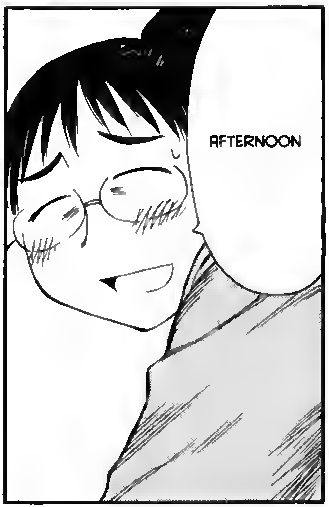








MY PATH TO MANGA (4)





AFTERNOON?

OKAY.




COSPLAY
PHOTO
SESSION
EMPLOYEES
ONLY


CHAPTER 54 -
FOREVER
IN MY DREAMS


今回コスプレ撮影会


職室










CREAK
キィ…
MEETING ROOM

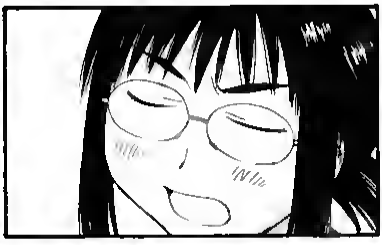










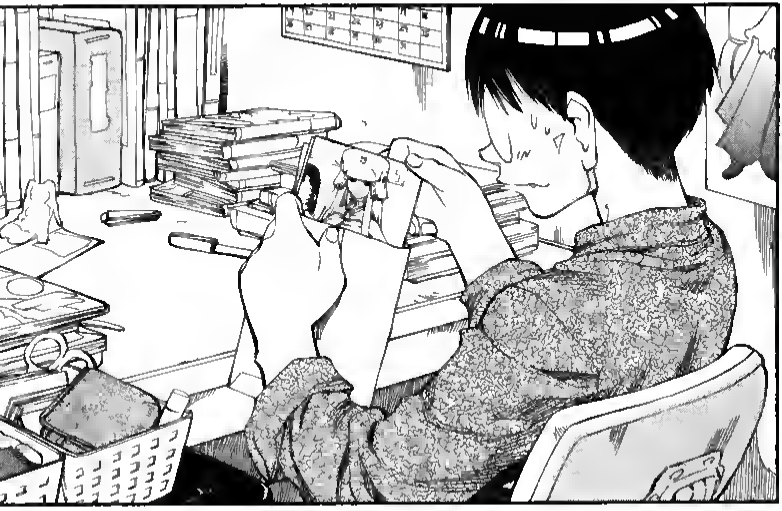


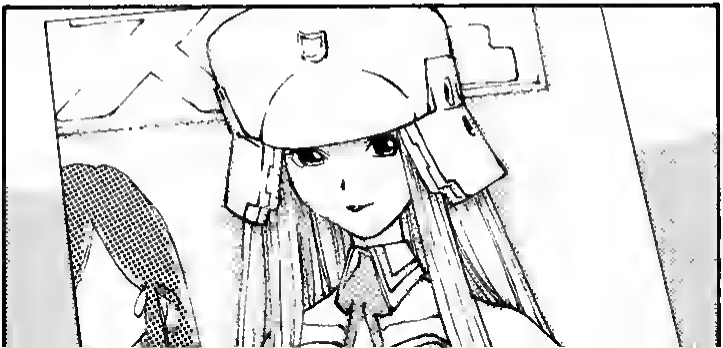


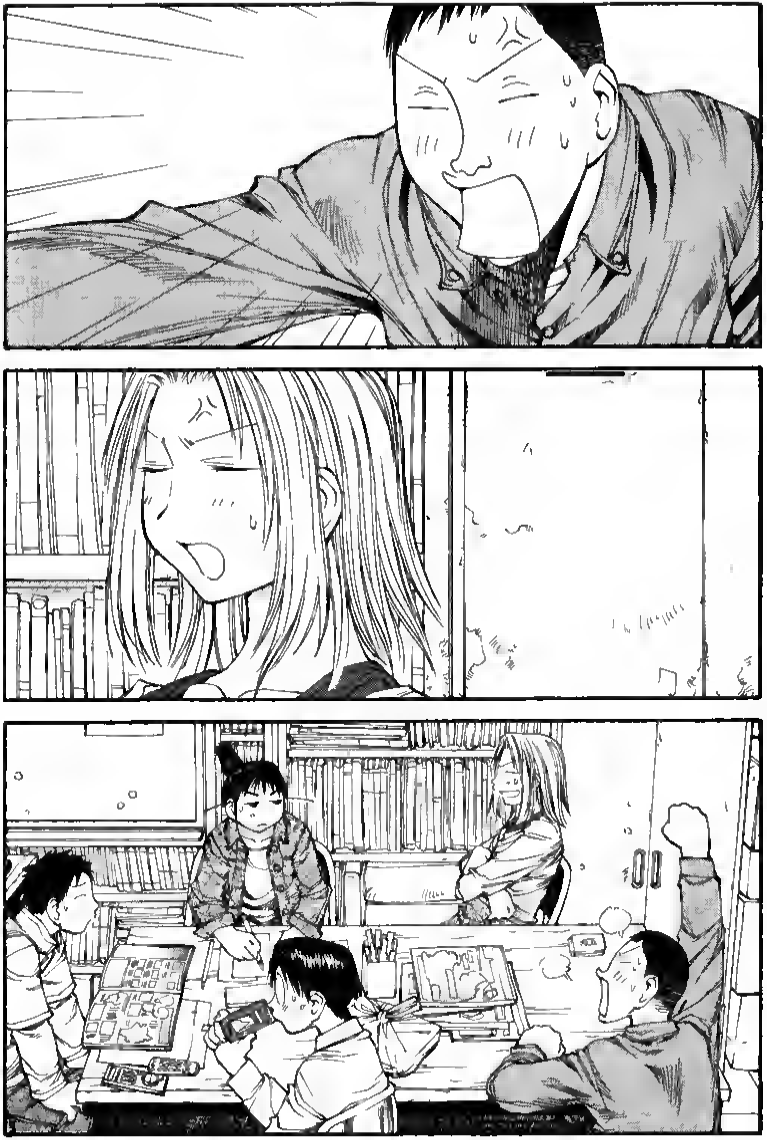










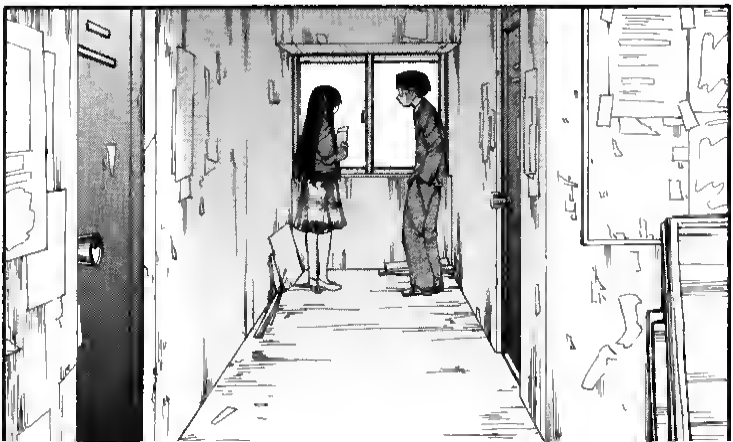












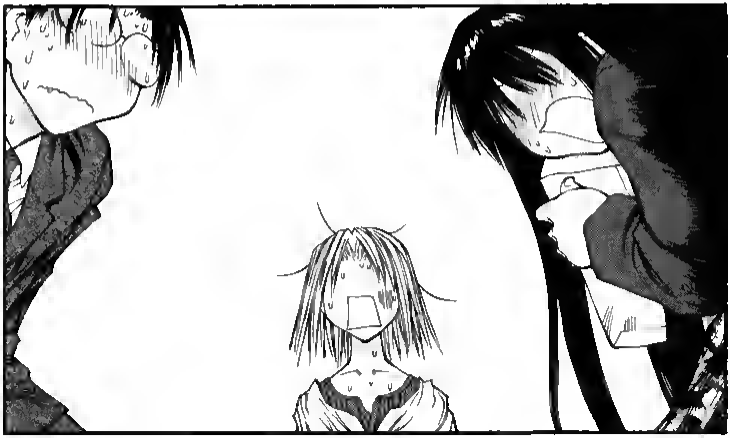







!?
3-A
KETTENKRAD
























HA HA




SHIIOU
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATING
CLASS OF 2005
END OF CHAPTER 54

NO TRESPASSING



MY PATH TO MANGA (CONCLUSION)



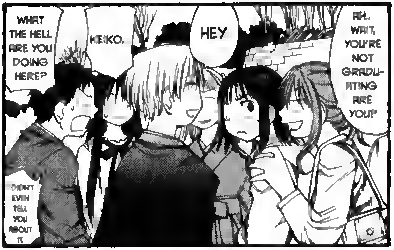

HELLO.
HEY.
HELLO/
'SUP.

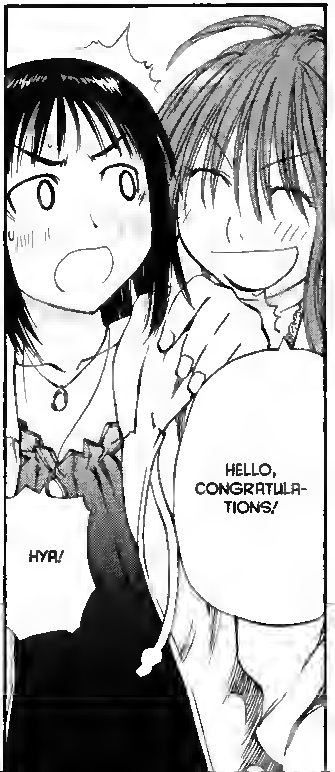



CHAPTER 55 -
GENSHIKEN

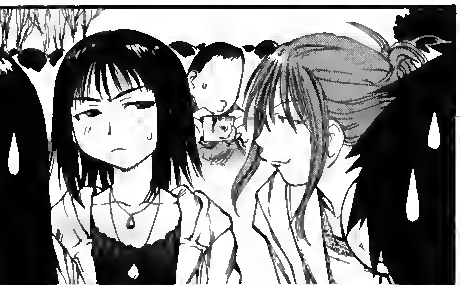

I WANTED TO WEAR HAKAMA PANTS LIKE SAKI-SAN'S.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU WEAR SOME?
I MEAN, IT'S REALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM COSPLAY.
NO, WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...
...IS ACTUALLY PRETTY DIFFERENT.
YEAH, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CHARACTER.
OH YEAH... I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
SORT OF.


CLICK
THE MAIN THING IS, I WANNA DRESS LIKE THAT WITH SOMEONE, NOT BY MYSELF
AND OGIUE-SAN IS A YEAR BEHIND ME, SO THAT MEANS NEXT YEAR I'LL BE ON MY OWN.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO IT IN PRIVATE?
THE TWO OF YOU.
YEAH, LET'S DO THAT.


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KEIKO.
HEY
EH.. WAIT, YOU'RE NOT GRADUATING ARE YOU?
I DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU ABOUT IT.


HELLO, CONGRATULATIONS!
HYA!


WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M IN THE GENSHIKEN.




YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
THIS IS JUST FOR TODAY
HELLO, OGI-CHAN ♡
I SEE YOU GAVE UP ON THAT WEIRD HAIR STYLE.
OH, I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE
WE ALREADY MADE RESERVATIONS FOR THE AFTER PARTY, SO...
YOU CAN'T COME
SHUT THE HELL UP!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, KANJI?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING HER?
OGIUE-SAN DOESN'T LIKE THAT KIND OF STUFF!
HUH?
LET GO OF HER HAND, KEIKO-SAN.

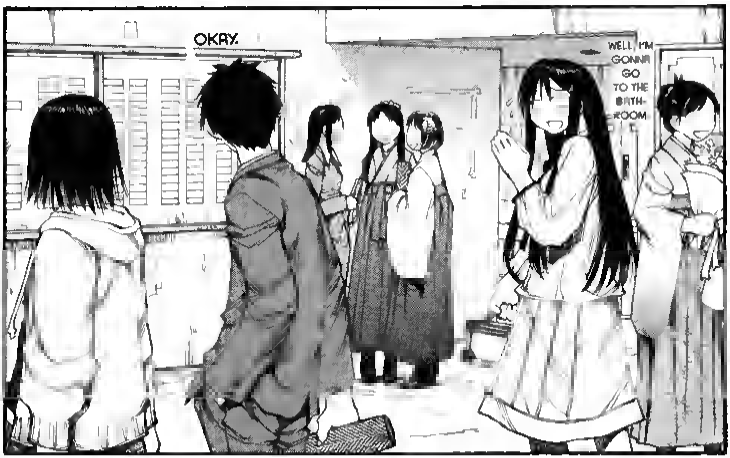

HIYA.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING PRETTY INTENSE.
SURE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS.
SHUT UP
IS THAT RIGHT, KANJI?
RIGHT, SASAHARA-SAN?
YOU HAVE TO BE REALLY GENTLE WITH OGIUE-SAN.
WELL, HOW 'BOUT WE LET THE GRADUATES CHANGE, AND THEN...
WE CAN ALL MEET UP BACK AT THE GENSHIKEN.
NO, I JUST HAVE TO STOP BY THE GENSHIKEN.
TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING.
HUH? ARE YOU GOING HOME, SASAHARA?
OKAY.

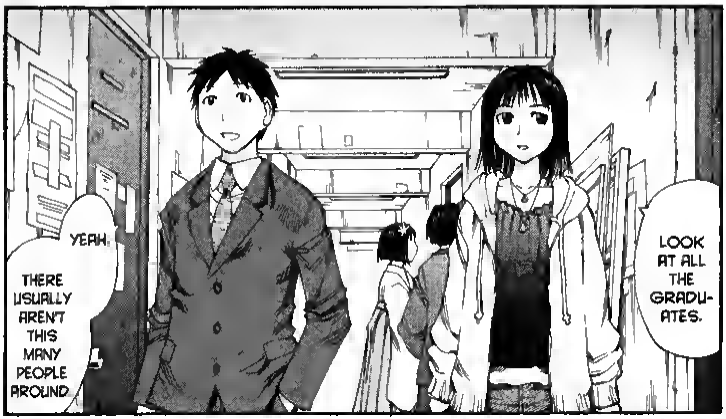

HUHP DID EVERY-BODY LEAVE ALREADY?
YEAH.
BUT WE HAVE THE PARTY AFTER-WARD, SO

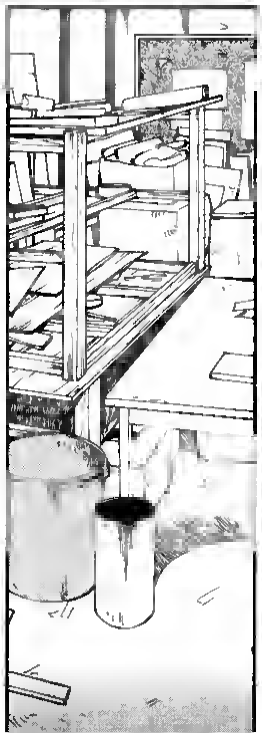

SURE
CAN I COME WITH YOU GUYS?
I'M GONNA GO TO THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE
DIDN'T HAVE BREAK-FAST.
OKAY.


YEAH
UH-HUH.


I'M SURE EVERY-BODY WILL MEET UP BACK AT THE GENSHI KEN SOON, ANYWAY
TANAKA-SAN WILL BE THERE, TOO, WON'T HE?


OKAY.
WELL, I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.


LOOK AT ALL THE GRADU-ATES.
YEAH. THERE USUALLY AREN'T THIS MANY PEOPLE AROUND.











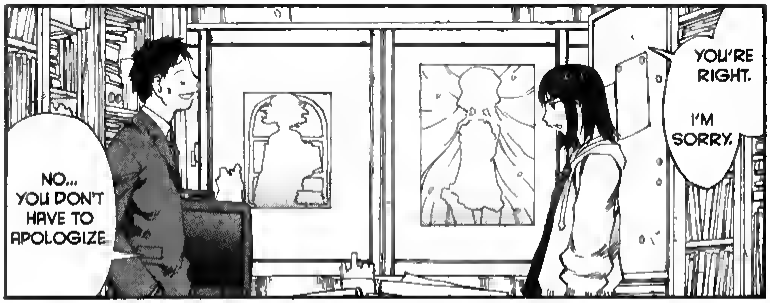

IT'S GOTTA BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.
PLOP
—AND I CAN'T FIND IT ANY-WHERE.
IT'S ONE I BOUGHT A WHILE AGO.
IT'S FROM ONE OF THE REALLY POPULAR CIRCLES, AND IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITES. IT'S REALLY USEFUL..
IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S THIS DOUJIN-SHI...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


IT'S NOTHING, REALLY
YEAH. UH.
YOU SAID YOU HAD SOME-THING TO TAKE CARE OF—
WHAT DID YOU MEAN?


AH
UH-OH
I'M SORRY. ARE YOU MAD?
I'M NOT MAD.
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT NOW IS PROBABLY NOT THE TIME TO GO LOOKING FOR A PORNO DOUJINSHI
I WOULDN'T GET MAD OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT IF I GOT MAD AT EVERY LITTLE THING LIKE THAT I'D GO CRAZY.
IT'S PART OF THE DEAL WHEN YOU'RE DATING AN OTAKU.
SO YOU ARE MAD?


HUH?
AREN'T YOU FORGET-TING SOME-THING?
WHAT?
IT'S JUST THAT..


AH.
OH YEAH.
THAT OUTFIT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU
AND YOUR HAIR LOOKS CUTE LIKE THAT
LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK KYOU-KOSE SAN'S ADVICE.
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE
AW, THAT SOUNDED SO FORCED!
OF COURSE I NOTICED RIGHT AWAY WHEN I SAW YOU.
BUT I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY ANYTHING IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
I KNEW THEY'D START MAKING FUN OF US!
WELL, OKAY, BUT...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING ONCE WE WERE ALONE TOGETHER?

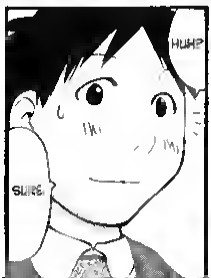

NO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.


WELL, THE SAME GOES FOR ME...
I WISH I COULD WALK RIGHT UP TO MY OLD SELF..


BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
THE OLD ME COULD NEVER EVEN HAVE IMAGINED...
...BEING IN HERE ALONE WITH A GIRL LIKE THIS.


BACK WHEN I JUST STARTED GOING HERE, AND SAY, "SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE GOING OUT WITH SASAHARA-SAN."
I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT.
HA, HA, HA, HA. PROBABLY NOT.


A LOT'S HAPPENED..
..SINCE I JOINED THE GENSHIKEN.
YEAH.. OF COURSE, YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD TWICE AS MUCH STUFF HAPPEN TO YOU
.....


HUH?
SURE.

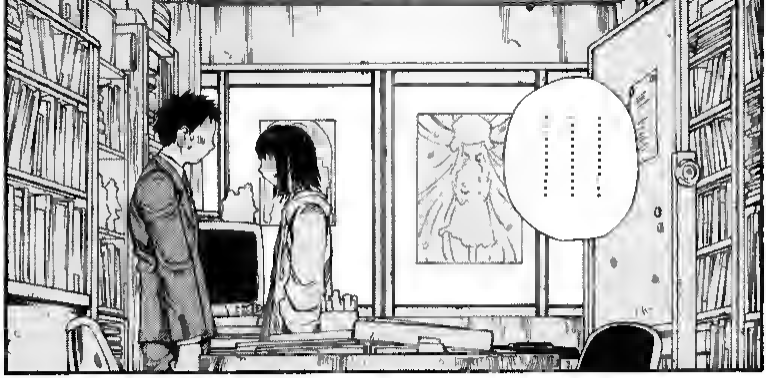

...COME CLOSER TO YOU?
CAN I...




HUH?


HUH?
WHAT?
UH...
YEAH, RIGHT...
COME CLOSER NOW?


WE'D BETTER HURRY... BEFORE OHNO-SENPAI COMES BACK



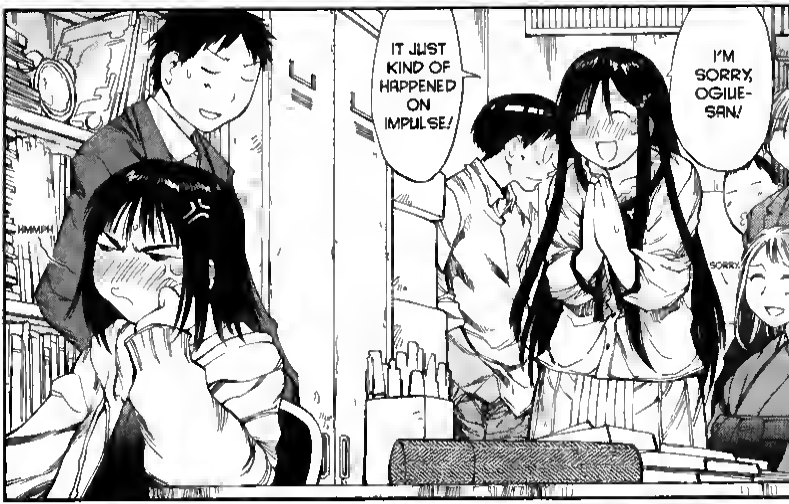

SQUEEZE
FWICK




DON'T YOU THINK OHNO-SAN'S BEEN IN THE BATHROOM A LITTLE TOO LONG?
HUH?
FWIP


HUH?
WHA-?
HUH?
I KNEW IT!
TZFWICK
WHAT?




I'M SORRY, OGIUE-SAN!
IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED ON IMPULSE!
HMMPH
SORRY

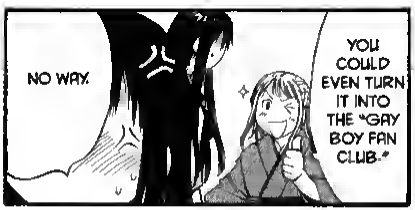

SORRY THAT WE JOINED IN.
AH, SORRY.
OHNO WAS SO EXCITED THAT SHE CALLED US AND MADE US COME WATCH WITH HER...
HEY.
HEY.
OGI-CHAN WAS TOTAL-LY...
KYA!
...THE ONE PUTTING ON THE MOVES, DON'T YOU THINK? ♡
SHE MUST REALLY LIKE MAKING OUT! ♡


I WAS PLANNING ON ASKING OGIWE-SAN TO BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT.
AHH, NOW WHAT DO I DO?


I'D HELP YOU OUT.
NO WAY IN HELL I'M DOING IT.
BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN GRADUATING THIS YEAR, OHNO-SENPAI. AND WHAT ABOUT KUCHIKI-KUN?

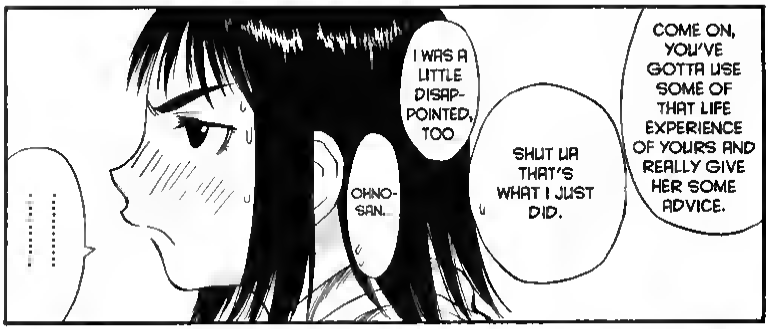

I'D BE A TERRIBLE PRESIDENT.
HAHH...

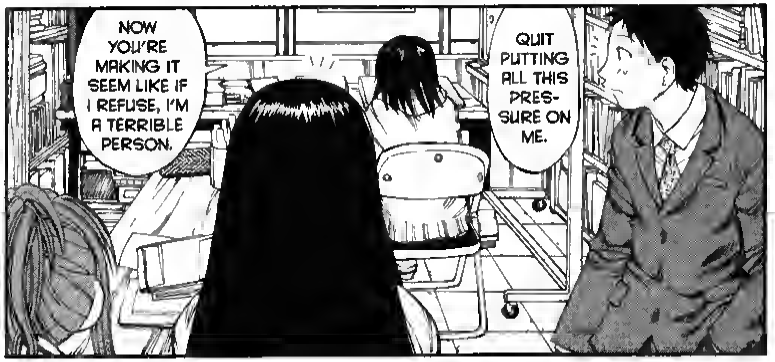

OKAY, OKAY.
I'LL HANDLE THIS.
IT'S A GENSHI-KEN CUSTOM.
OR IS IT A TRADITION?


YOU COULD EVEN TURN IT INTO THE "GAY BOY FAN CLUB."
NO WAY.


YEAH...
BUT...
UH...
UM...
YOU'RE THE ONLY JUNIOR IN THE CLUB NOW OGIUE-SAN.
BUT THE MAIN THING IS, I THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE PRESI-DENT.


HUH?
SAKI-CHAN, I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT
KANJI ♡
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WANNA SAY?
I MEAN, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID IT?
SHUT UP.
AH.
UH...
I MANAGED, SO I'M SURE YOU COULD, TOO.
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?


COME ON, YOU'VE GOTTA USE SOME OF THAT LIFE EXPERIENCE OF YOURS AND REALLY GIVE HER SOME ADVICE.
SHUT UP THAT'S WHAT I JUST DID.
I WAS A LITTLE DISAP-POINTED, TOO
OHNO-SAN.
.....


QUIT PUTTING ALL THIS PRES-SURE ON ME.
NOW YOU'RE MAKING IT SEEM LIKE IF I REFUSE, I'M A TERRIBLE PERSON.


N-NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE—
I'LL DO IT.
WILL THAT SHUT YOU UP?


I'LL DO IT, BUT I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, I'M GONNA USE EVERY OUNCE OF AUTHORITY I'VE GOT.
KYAAA! THANK YOU, OGIUE-SAN!
FIRST OF ALL, COSPLAY IS NOW PROHIBITED.
EH?
SHOCK
ガーン
JUST KIDDING
DON'T TAKE ME SO SERIOUSLY.
PHEW
THUMP THUMP
ドキ


OKAY.
COME ON.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GO HOME AND CHANGE?
QUIT SPACING OUT AND GET A MOVE ON!
OKAY, OKAY.

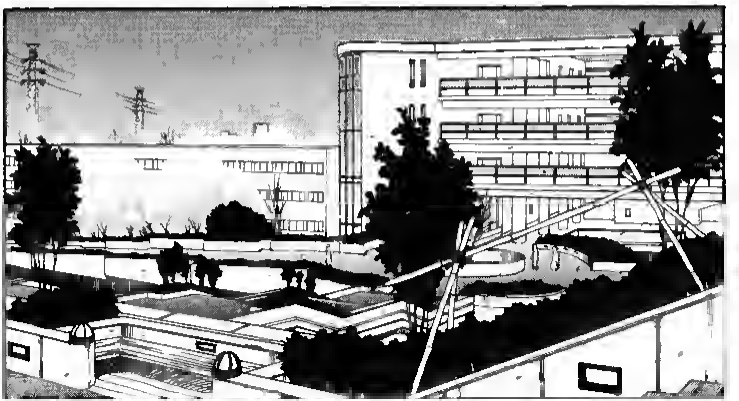



OKAY.

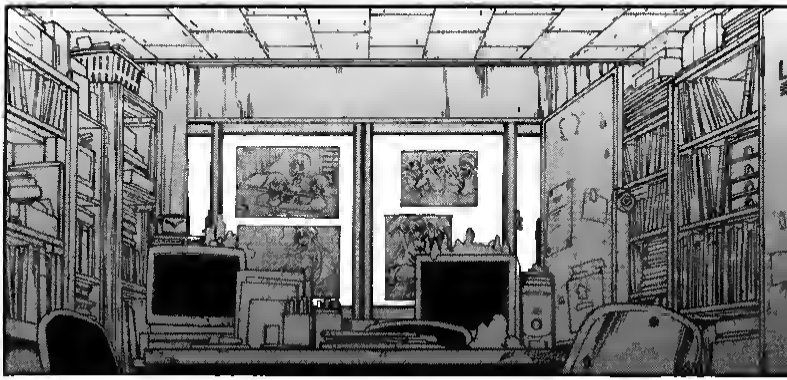

YOU TOO, SASAHARA-SAN!
I'LL COME WITH YOU.


OKAY, LET'S GO CHANGE.
I'M GETTING WASTED TONIGHT!
WE CAN CELEBRATE GRADUATION AND OGIWE-SAN'S PRESIDENCY ALL AT ONCE.
LET'S DRINK!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR THAT!
OH, COME ON.
ME, TOO!
I DON'T NEED TO GO HOME AND CHANGE.
I THOUGHT I WAS THE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE PRESIDENCY
NOPE

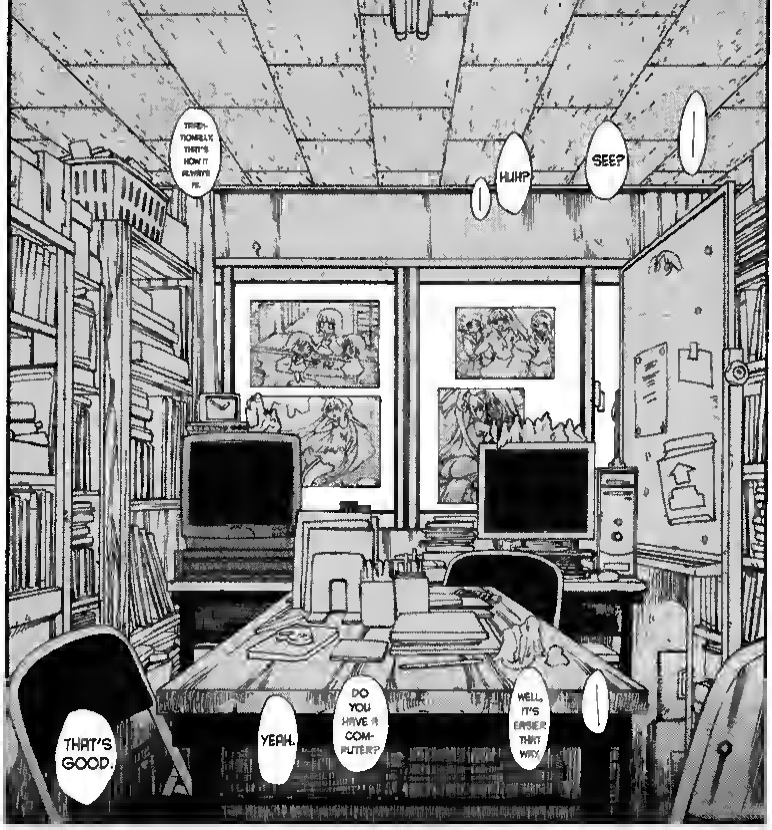








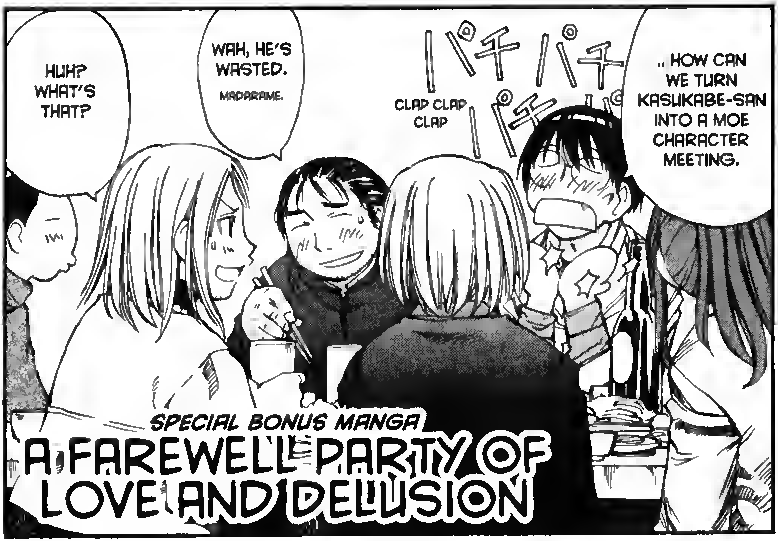



THAT'S GOOD.
YEAH.
DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER?
WELL, IT'S EASIER THAT WAY.
HUHP
SEE?
I
I
THEN, TOMMILY, THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS IS.


AH, PRESIDENT.
I GUESS EVERY-BODY'S GOT ONE.
カチャ
CLICK

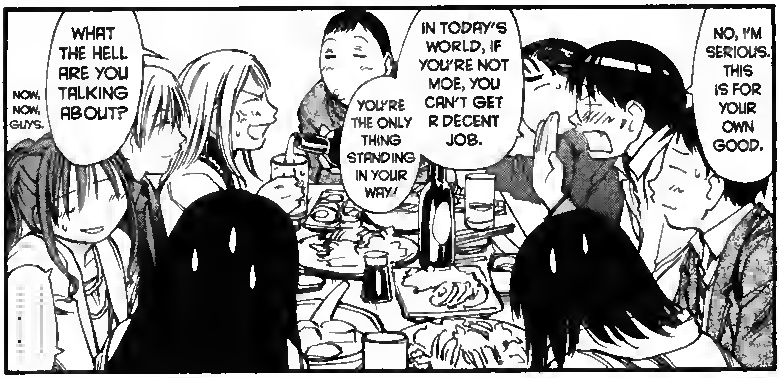

304
GENSHIKEN
WE'VE GOT A NEW MEMBER!





SPECIAL BONUS MANGA

A FAREWELL PARTY OF LOVE AND DELUSION



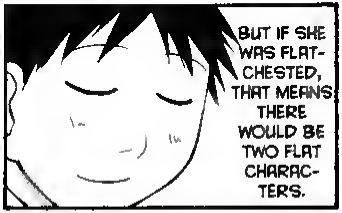

KASUKABE-SAN IS BASICALLY THE "GROWN UP" YOUNG LADY CHARACTER...
WELL, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO TRY TO CREATE A CHARACTER BY USING HER OWN NATURAL ATTRIBUTES.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE HELL THEY'RE SAYING?
EVERY WORD
UH-HUH.
YEAH, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GAP
YEAH, MAYBE, BUT.. IT ALL COMES DOWN TO WHEN THEIR DERE COMES OUT.
RIGHT NOW, IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY CHARACTER IS A TSUNDERE!
YOU KNOW.. LIKE THE KIND OF CHARACTER WHO WALKS AROUND THE DORM IN HER UNDERWEAR.
THE SEXY CHARACTER
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE OLD?
NO, THEY STILL HAVE CHARACTERS LIKE THAT
BUT.
AH, SEE? THAT RIGHT THERE WAS SO DERE.
I'M NOT DERE DERE AT ALL
THAT'S WEIRD...I USED TO BE TOTALLY
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THEY JUST TOTALLY PUT DOWN MY PERSONALITY?
OGIUE-SAN COULD BE THE TSUNDERE-RIGHT?
OHNO-SAN COULD BE THE SEXY CHARACTER, AND...
THPPT
GLUG GLUG
TOUCHE! THOSE ARE DEFINITELY THE WORDS OF AN EDITOR.
MAKING A CHARACTER IS ALL ABOUT COMING UP WITH THE PERFECT FLAW.

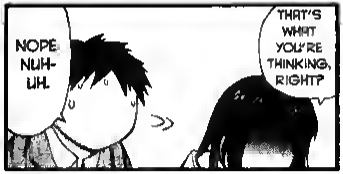

OKAY, SO... LET'S SEE... SHE'D BE REALLY FLAT-CHESTED, AND SHE'D BE OHNO-SAN'S ARCHRIVAL.
BURP
THAT WOULD MAKE HER KIND OF MOE.
SHE COULD PAD HER BRA.
WAH.
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS TURNING INTO SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
BESIDES, THAT'S TOTAL BULL-SHIT.
HOW DO YOU EVEN THINK UP STUFF LIKE THAT?


THAT'S RIGHT/ SAKI-SAN'S ARE ONLY SMALL WHEN YOU COMPARE 'EM TO MY SUPER-HUGE BOOBS.
OH, SMOOTH EH.
YEAH SHE'S THE SEXY CHARAC-TER.
BESIDES, I LOVE SMALL ONES.
SHUT UP, YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS WORSE.
YOU'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE.
YOU ALWAYS WANT WHAT YOU CAN'T HAVE.
WHAT-EVER.


SINCE SHE HAS A BOY-FRIEND SHE COULD NEVER BE A CHARACTER ANYWAY
AHH.. TRUE.
HUHP WHY?

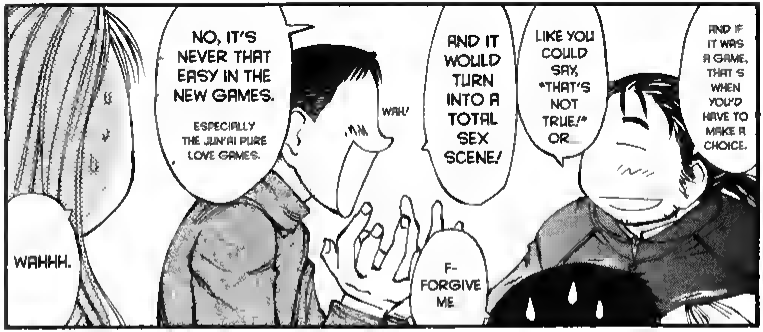

WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, BE-CAUSE..


BUT IF SHE WAS FLAT-CHESTED, THAT MEANS THERE WOULD BE TWO FLAT CHARAC-TERS.


THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RIGHT?
NOPE. NUH-UH.

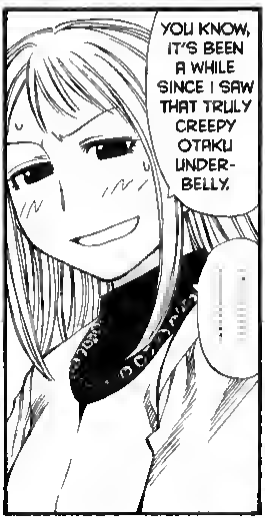

THAT'S JUST THE WAY THIS STUFF WORKS.
BUT THAT WOULD DISQUALIFY ALL OF THE GENSHIKEN GIRLS.
OHNO, TOO.
...WELL, YEAH. IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MOE, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
HOW RUDE.
.....
AH.
WHAT?
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING.
WHAT?
JUST SAY IT.
DON'T FREAK OUT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANY SHAME LEFT
SQUIRM SQUIRM
IT'D WORK IF YOU WERE STILL A VIRGIN.


DON'T FREAK OUT...
HUH?
HE DEFINITELY HAS HIS OWN UNIQUE VISION.
AH...I KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING.
HUH? UH...
FREAK OUT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING GROSS, BUT...
YEAH.
IF THERE WAS A CHARACTER WHO SEEMED LIKE A KNOW-IT-ALL...
...AND WAS STILL A VIRGIN EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND, THAT MIGHT BE ENOUGH OF A GIRL.
ALL OF A SUDDEN
YEAH, AND THEN ONE DAY, SHE'D GET DRUNK WITH THE MAIN CHARACTER, AND SAY...
"I WONDER IF I'M JUST NOT PRETTY ENOUGH."


AND IF IT WAS A GAME, THAT'S WHEN YOU'D HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE.
LIKE YOU COULD SAY, "THAT'S NOT TRUE!" OR...
AND IT WOULD TURN INTO A TOTAL SEX SCENE!
WAH!
NO, IT'S NEVER THAT EASY IN THE NEW GAMES.
ESPECIALLY THE JUN'AI PURE LOVE GAMES.
F-FORGIVE ME
WAHHH.


THIS DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
HUH? HUH?
WELL... THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.
YOU CAN'T GET MAD AT EVERY LITTLE THING.

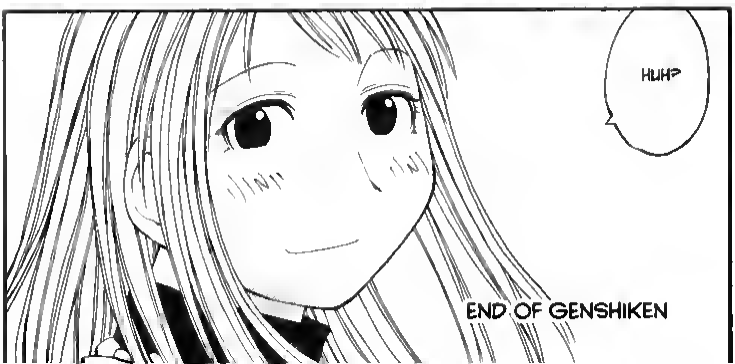

HEY, KOUSAKA. YOU WERE MOE FOR SOME-THING ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
I MEAN, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ME, RIGHT?
HUH? MOE?


YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW THAT TRULY CREEPY OTAKU UNDER-BELLY.


HA HA


SAKI-CHAN'S MOE?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY.
BUT DON'T WORRY, SAKI-CHAN!
MOE AND LOVE ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS.
OH WELL...
HER CHARACTER ACTUALLY COMES OUT THE MOST WHEN SHE'S BEING PICKED ON BY KOUSAKA.
YEAH.


HMMPH
I DON'T THINK KASUKABE-SENPAI REALIZES JUST HOW SENSITIVE SHE IS...
—TO CONVER-SATIONS LIKE THIS..
I WANNA WATCH THIS WHOLE THING EXPLODE.
NO, THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR.
BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T BE THE ONE EXPLODING.
I KNOW, BUT...
YOU KNOW I'VE ALWAYS FELT THIS WAY, BUT...


HUH?
END OF GENSHIKEN

ありがとうございました。

THANK YOU.

（やっと終わった……32歳 漫画家）

(IT'S FINALLY OVER... A 32-YEAR-OLD MANGA ARTIST)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



KIO SHIMOKU WAS BORN IN 1974. IN 1994 HIS DEBUT WORK, *TEN NO RYOIKI*, RECEIVED SECOND PLACE IN THE "AFTERNOON SHIKI PRIZE" CONTEST. OTHER PAST WORKS INCLUDE *KAGERIYBIKII*, *YONENSEI*, AND *GONENSEI*, ALL OF WHICH APPEARED IN *AFTERNOON* MAGAZINE. HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON GENSHIKEN SINCE 2002.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Only Event, page 6

An "only" or "only event" is a kind of doujinshi convention that focuses on a single genre.



Hiccups, page 7

Susie is quoting the manga series *Azumanga Daioh.*



The original, page 7

The line Susie is quoting is slightly different in the *Azumanga Daioh* anime. Kanji is acknowledging that Susie is quoting from the original manga version.



Saint Seiya, page 8

Susie's quote here is a famous catch phrase from the manga/anime *Saint Seiya*. It literally means something like, "Time to power up my Cosmo Energy." Uh, you really have to read the manga to get it.



Fist of the North Star, page 8

Fist of the North Star, or *Hokuto no ken*, was a wildly popular manga and anime from the 1980s.



Narita Temple, page 9

Narita Temple, located just outside of Tokyo, is a famous spot for *hatsumode*, the first temple visit of the new year. People come in droves to the temple at night and wait in line to make an offering.

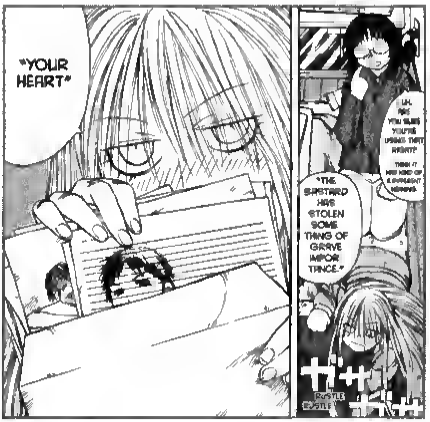
Rupan, page 23

Susie is quoting a line from the anime *Rupan the Third: Castle of Cagliostro.*



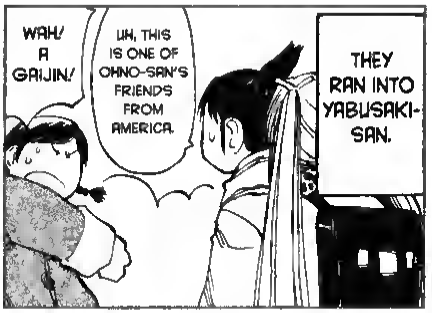
"Yatsu wa tondemonai mono o rusunde ikimashita," page 24

This line, "The bastard has stolen something of grave importance," is also from *Rupan*. It is probably spoken by Rupan's nemesis, the police officer Zenigata (*Zenigata no totzzan*).



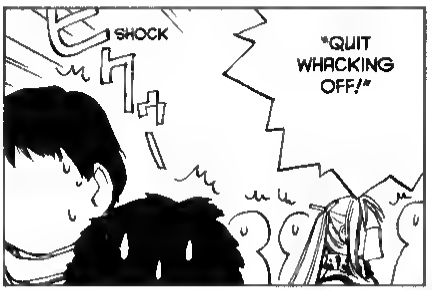
Gaijin, page 27

Gaijin, short for *gaikokujin*, is a Japanese term for "foreigner," and is usually used to refer to Westerners. The kanji characters that make up the word *gaijin* literally mean "outside person."



Whacking, page 27

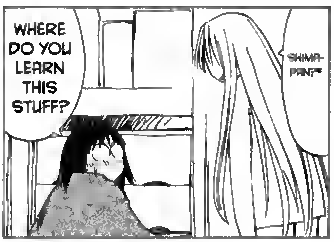
Sue is screaming out *"masukaki yame,"* which means "quit masturbating." This is a reference to a goodie bag given out



at a recent Comicket (Comic-Fest). The bag bore this phrase, and apparently it caused quite a stir, as people were embarrassed to carry it home on the train.

Shimapan, page 28

Shimapan means striped panties. *Shimapan* are often featured in doujinshis, and there are even "*Shimapan* only" events. (See the page 6 note.)



They were only 11, page 28

This title is a reference to the anime *They Were 11* (*Juuichinin iru*).

"*Sieg Zeon*", page 37

This is a famous quote from *Gundam*.



Shiritori, page 40

Shiritori is a word game that you may remember from *Genshiken* volume 3. Players must come up with a word that begins with the last syllable of the previous word used. For example, if one player uses the word "samurai," the next player needs a word beginning with "i". A player loses when he or she repeats a word or says a word that ends in "n." No Japanese words begin with the single character "n," therefore the game cannot be continued.



Ayu, page 41

Ayu is a tasty Japanese river fish that is usually covered in salt and grilled over fire or hot coals.



"Dirty thoughts", page 45

Sue is quoting a famous line from the manga/anime *Maharomatic*.

The sunrise, page 57

Sue is quoting a line from Hayao Miyazaki's animated film *Laputa: Castle in the Sky.*



Nekoyasha, page 59

Here Sue is making reference to a line from *Inuyasha*, but she has replaced the word *inu*, dog, with the Japanese word for cat, *neko.*



Nose hair, page 105

This is a reference to a story in *Genshiken* volume 3, wherein Madarame sees a nose hair stuck to Saki's face.

Tsundere, page 178

A *tsundere* is a type of anime/manga character. It usually refers to a girl who starts out mean and suddenly turns sweet and lovey-dovey. The word comes from the phrases *Tsuntsun* and *dere dere.* The *tsuntsun* part refers to the mean side and *dere dere* to the lovey-dovey side.

